



Jordan Times

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Namibia police demobilised

WINDHOK, Namibia (AP) — More than 1,000 former members of a South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrilla police unit were demobilised Saturday in a parade at the old base in northern Namibia, the South-West African Broadcasting Corporation reported. Journalists were not permitted into the base at Otakou, where an estimated 1,150 black and white officers of Koevoet, which means "crowbar" in Afrikaans, were demobilised. They were escorted by members of a U.N. force monitoring the process leading to independence election for the South African territory. Uniforms and weapons were handed in earlier, said the South African Press Association. Former members of the unit had been confined to the Otakou base since last month, receiving retraining in ordinary police duties, but they were allowed to go to their homes at night. Since the United Nations began monitoring the transition to independence in April, the U.N. observers have been calling for removal of members of the Koevoet unit from the police force.

Iran accepts U.N. proposal

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iran has accepted a recent United Nations proposal for the simultaneous start of an Iraqi troop withdrawal and the repatriation of both sides of prisoners-of-war, an Iranian spokesman with the U.N. mission said Saturday. The spokesman quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as saying that Iran agreed to the proposal, submitted to both sides by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar when he attended a recent Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Belgrade. According to the spokesman, Iraq had not accepted the proposal. He said it called for a troop pullout to internationally-recognised borders to be completed within 15 days and the exchange of prisoners-of-war, numbering more than 100,000 within three months. A ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war took effect in August, 1988. But there has been no progress in implementing other elements contained in a Security Council resolution adopted in July, 1987 which also calls for a troop withdrawal to international boundaries and the return of prisoners-of-war captured during the eight-year-long battle.

1 killed in Jenin

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian youth in an overnight clash in the area of Jenin in the occupied West Bank, Israeli Radio said Saturday. Masked youths armed with knives stopped troops on the way to Maythahun village outside Jenin, the radio said. Troops opened fire and killed the youth. The killing raises the death toll in the 21-month-Palestinian uprising to 656 Palestinians. In the Gaza Strip, Arab hospital officials said Saturday that Israeli troops shot and wounded 16 Palestinians. Fourteen Arabs were wounded during clashes in Khan Yunis refugee camp and two in Gaza overnight, the officials said, while two more were shot by troops in Gaza Saturday morning. Israeli military authorities banned Palestinians from the Gaza Strip from entering Israel for 60 hours over the Jewish New Year holiday beginning Friday until 4 a.m. (0200 GMT) Monday.



MANUSCRIPTS ON DISPLAY: Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday opened an Islamic manuscripts exhibition at the National Gallery for Fine Art to mark the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Royal Society for Fine Art. The exhibition, expected to last until mid-November, includes 40 pieces of art depicting the beauty of Arabic writing. The 600-year-old pieces of art carry Koranic verses, Islamic Sunna, and poems. This exhibition was held earlier in Geneva, London, Dublin, Zurich. Present at the exhibition was Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali. (Petra photo)

Sharif Zaid pledges strict action to ensure public safety

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will take strict measures to put an end to any activity that jeopardises public safety in the Kingdom, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker said Saturday. "All institutions related to public safety will perform their duties within a comprehensive national policy to ensure that the measures adopted in this regard will eliminate dangers threatening the people and environment," Sharif Zaid was quoted as saying at a meeting of the recently formed Higher Committee for Public Safety. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, also quoted the prime minister as saying that the committee should perform its duties with a comprehensive view to safeguarding the environment. He also called for stepped up efforts to ensure efficiency and quick response and action to resolve public safety problems in the country, Petra said. The agency said the higher committee set up several panels in various fields of public health and potentially hazardous areas. A panel was formed with the membership of the ministries of industry and trade, labour, health and social development to study public safety problems in industry and come up with solutions and recommendations. Another panel comprises the ministries of health and social development and Greater Amman Municipality to monitor restaurants, snack bars, foodstuff stores and street vendors to ensure that public safety regulations are adhered to. The higher committee also approved the formation of public safety committees in various governorates and recommended the establishment of a technical committee to conduct necessary studies to deal with emergency situations. It asked the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to present a study on water resources and garbage disposal sites. The higher committee will meet once every month and review reports drawn up by the various panels and other concerned institutions and parties, Petra said.

Baker urges Israel to pick up from Cairo initiative

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said that if Israel's cabinet fails to advance Middle East peace efforts when it meets in the coming week other peace options will have to be considered. Baker, seeking to advance Middle East peace diplomacy, also stressed Friday that Egypt's proposals for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue are completely negotiable. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc rejects key aspects of the 10-point proposal advanced by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, including his suggestion that Israel trade land for peace. "The real question is what position the government of Israel takes when the cabinet meets next week," said Baker, at a news conference at the U.N. mission to the United Nations. "The Egyptian 10 points is not a competing proposal, it is simply a method of trying to get implementation of the Shamir proposal," Baker added. "It is the opening position adopted by Palestinians when they sit down with Israelis to talk about elections." "I think we have to take the peace process in the Middle East a step at a time," Baker said. "The name of the game right now, it seems to me, is to — for the first time — get Israelis and Palestinians talking to each other." The United States, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel's Labour Party of Vice-Premier Shimon Peres have all accepted the basic tenets of Mubarak's proposal. Shamir, however, has said Mubarak is trying to amend his plan for Palestinian elections in ways unacceptable to Israel. Likud rejects the "land-for-peace" concept, and does not want to allow Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem or outside the territories to vote, as the plan suggests. Baker's emphasis on the negotiability of Mubarak's proposal, along with his repeated praise for Shamir's plan for elections for Palestinian representatives, is seen as a way of trying to keep Likud from rejecting the idea next week. Israeli government officials predict a deadlock in the cabinet when Labour and Likud debate the Egyptian additions to Israel's election initiative. The initiative, advanced by Shamir five months ago, proposes elections in the occupied territories for Palestinians on the status of West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel Radio said Saturday Shamir and Mubarak had agreed to hold talks soon. It said the meeting was set

Lebanese parliament meets with 'no choice but to succeed'

TAIF (Agencies) — Lebanon's parliament met in this mountain resort Saturday and was told by its speaker, "we have no choice but to succeed" in finding an end to Lebanon's bloody civil war. Sixty-three of the surviving 73 members, half Christian and half Muslim, are attending the meeting to debate an Arab-sponsored reform package which would redistribute political power in favour of Lebanon's Muslims. They have come some 1,800 kilometres to escape the political pressures of Beirut, where a tentative ceasefire has been in force since army commander Michel Aoun accepted an Arab League peace plan Sept. 22. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, in an opening address read by Foreign Minister Prince Saad Al Faisal in Taif's conference palace, called on the feuding parliamentarians to cooperate in finding a settlement to the conflict in which more than 150,000 people have been killed since 1975. "It is high time we moved from trading artillery shells and accusations to hasten the peacemaking," the king's message said. The monarch underscored the necessity of enabling the Lebanese state "to spread legitimate authority over the entire territory of Lebanon." Most of Lebanon, except an 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave north of Beirut is under the control of Syria which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon. Israel occupies a "security zone" of Lebanese territory along its border. Fahd is a member of a three-member committee mandated by the 22-member Arab League to bring peace and reconcile Lebanon's feuding factions. Some of the Lebanese deputies who arrived in Taif late Friday said the meeting would last three to 10 days. "Last chance" Before the deputies left Beirut Friday, Lebanon's acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss said the Taif meeting "could be the last chance for peace in Lebanon." He told the Associated Press that the deputies "must not fail. The will that silenced the guns ought to enforce a political solution." Conference sources said 60 of Lebanon's 73 surviving legislators, 33 Christians and 30 Muslims, were in Taif in Saudi Arabia's western mountains. Three Shi'ite Muslim and seven Christian deputies failed to show up. "No one has refused to come, but some gave medical reasons for not attending," Sand said. Twenty-five of the deputies in the 99-seat parliament have been killed or died of natural causes since the last general elections in 1972. The fighting has prevented elections since then. Prince Sand told the deputies flanking him in the opulent, oriental-carpeted conference hall that the Arab League reconciliation charter was open to amendment by them. "After 14 years it is clear to all that war has not and will not lead to any result... the crisis is not impossible to solve, provided all the parties have the will to save Lebanon," he added. Speaker Hussein said: "Failure would open the road to hell for people... (and) the road to chaos and terrorism for the world." The deputies, many in their 70s or even older, sat along a rectangular table in the lavish marble hall in the quiet hill station of Taif, overlooking the Holy city of Mecca. Hussein, Prince Sand, Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and the foreign ministers of Algeria and Morocco, the other members of the committee entrusted with ending the fighting in Lebanon sat at the head. The meeting is the deputies' first since an abortive session in September 1988, when they failed to raise a quorum and elect a successor to outgoing President Amin Gemayel. Gemayel appointed Aoun as interim prime minister but Muslims rejected his authority proclaiming loyalty to the caretaker administration of Hoss. More than 830 people have been killed since Aoun launched a crusade in March to drive Syria's 33,000 troops out of Lebanon. Lebanese are watching the Taif talks closely in the hope they can find a compromise between Christian demands for a quick Syrian withdrawal and the Muslim view that reform of Lebanon's sectarian political system must come first. The reconciliation charter says the Syrian troops would remain in western Lebanon for two years after a stable government emerges in Beirut on the basis of political equality. Syrian troops would temporarily remain in the eastern Bekaa Valley and mountains northeast of Beirut under an agreement to be signed with the Lebanese government. Muslim deputies, on the other hand, fearful that the Christians might try to obstruct the reforms, want a tighter schedule before putting them into effect. The Taif meeting is informal and any decisions it takes have no legal authority. Syria sets priority Syria said Saturday that Lebanon's parliament should give priority to expelling the Israeli army from South Lebanon. Damascus Radio also said Syria would continue to help the country to preserve its unity. The radio said the Lebanese insisted that their parliament must reach agreement. "It is necessary that the Taif meeting be crowned with success to achieve national reconciliation and rescue Lebanon from its crisis," it said. "One of the most important priorities is getting rid of the Israeli enemy and reaching a solution which will enable Lebanon to liberate its land from the Zionist enemy." Syria has said that its troops will not leave Lebanon while Israel retains forces in South Lebanon, where the Israeli army and an allied militia patrol the "security zone."

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Gorbachev: Ukraine key to perestroika

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Saturday the Ukraine holds the key to the success of his perestroika reforms, warning that if they falter in the restless republic, they will falter across the country. His comments appeared in the party daily Pravda two days after he went to the Ukraine, a vital Soviet agricultural and industrial region, and oversaw the replacement of the republic's conservative party chief Vladimir Shcherbatsky by Vladimir Ivashko. "I am sure that a very good base for political leadership has been created in the Ukrainian party... if perestroika falters in the Ukraine it will falter throughout the entire country," Gorbachev said. While the Soviet Union has been racked by growing nationalist unrest in republics from the Baltic to Azerbaijan, many Soviet citizens grumble that Gorbachev's perestroika reforms have not reversed a decline in living standards. Both Shcherbatsky and Ivashko were also interviewed by Pravda, with the new Communist Party leader pledging to boost the Ukraine's economic potential and tackle serious food and housing shortages. "We will devote our attention to resolving the housing and food problems, making more staple goods available, improving health care and resolving ecological issues," he said. There are continuing environmental problems following the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl power plant north of Kiev. "The people are very dissatisfied," said the new chief of the republic that is home to 50 million people, the Soviet breadbasket and an important coal-producing and industrial area. He ticked off a half-dozen priorities including improved housing, food supplies, consumer goods, health care, the environment and associated problems of nuclear energy engendered by the Chernobyl accident in 1986 and the construction of another nuclear plant in the Crimea. Ivashko also pledged to allow the full development of Ukrainian culture, a sign he is likely to be more inclined towards compromise with those who are pushing for preservation of the Ukrainian language and demanding more economic and political autonomy. The 56-year-old Ivashko, who long has been pegged by observers as a supporter of Gorbachev's reforms, said one of his main tasks will be to work out a programme of the Ukraine's economic independence within the framework of the Soviet economy. Shcherbatsky, 71, the last politburo holdover from the years of former President Leonid I. Brezhnev, was intolerant of dissent. But under Gorbachev's reform policy, Ukrainians began making the same demands as other ethnic activists in the Soviet Union, and in early September held the founding meeting of the Rukh political movement. Echoing Gorbachev, Ivashko said one of his most important tasks would be to strengthen the party so that it does not lose initiative at a time when many informal political groups are placing demands before it and the government. There had been many reports in the past several years that Shcherbatsky was being forced out by Gorbachev, but he held onto his job until he and two other politburo members were eased out of the country's ruling body on Sept. 20. Ukrainian party leaders chose Ivashko in multi-candidate secret balloting on Sept. 28.

Famine threatens 1.7 m Ethiopians

NAIROBI (R) — Famine threatens more than 1.7 million people in Ethiopia's drought-stricken north unless relief supplies reach them soon, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said Friday. "The available information is so alarming that WFP is appealing to donors to start shipments now," a statement telexed to Reuters from the agency's headquarters in Rome said.

The agency estimates of 1.7 million people needing food aid covered only those who could be reached from government-held towns in the war-torn northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigray. The figure did not take into account the requirements of Eritreans and Tigrayans in areas under rebel control.

Stocks of relief food in Eritrea had fallen to 10,000 tonnes, their lowest level since 1984, when famine in northern Ethiopia killed up to one million people, the WFP said.

The U.N. agency estimated Ethiopia needed about 242,000 tonnes of emergency food supplies to avoid famine over the coming 12-month period.

"I saw sparse, stunted crops in most places," WFP representative David Morton was quoted as saying following a recent visit to Eritrea.

Other northern and central areas were also affected by

drought and might need food aid but their situation was not as critical as Eritrea and Tigray, the WFP said.

The U.N. agency said the current drought was as serious as the last one in 1987-88, when a famine was only averted by the prompt response of Western donors.

The war has repeatedly hampered distribution of relief supplies. Most roads are closed, forcing agencies to rely on expensive airlifts to get food to the starving in remote areas.

Diplomatic sources said that as before agencies would have to distribute aid through the rebel groups as well as the government to ensure supplies reached all those in need.

Rebels have been fighting for the independence of Eritrea, a former Italian colony, since 1961 and a separate rebellion against the Soviet-backed government in Addis Ababa has been underway in Tigray since 1975.

Relief operations in Eritrea could be helped by peace talks between the government and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, which began this month in the United States and are due to resume in Kenya in November.

These have not yet led to any ceasefire or agreement for relief operations to go ahead unhindered.



A Lebanese family drives back into Beirut under the eyes of a militiaman after the ceasefire that went into effect last week.

Lebanese discuss peace free from war

BEIRUT (R) — The calm of the Saudi Arabian mountain resort of Taif is a far cry from the battle-scarred Lebanese parliaments where the parliamentarians have been discussing the war.

The deputies met abroad for the first time Saturday in Taif to discuss an Arab League plan to end 14 years of civil war.

The parliament building in Beirut straddling one of Lebanon's oldest battlefronts — the green line dividing east and west Beirut — was abandoned when war broke out in 1975.

Today, shell-pocked, its gardens overgrown, it sits forlornly in a wasteland of burned-out buildings where rival militias once fought street-by-street.

Parliament then moved to Villa Mansour, a neo-classical two-storey red-tiled building festooned with barbed wire.

It is on the Museum crossing, the main passageway linking Beirut and the only one to remain open for most of the recent fighting.

The villa looks out on scores of blackened buildings pock-marked by shells and mortar bombs where weeds have gained a luxurious foothold.

Most of the original residents of the area have fled. Army troops occupy nearby buildings.

The villa, owned by Deputy Hussein Mansour, has been rented to the government since 1976.

Mansour sued the government last summer for remodeling the villa without his consent. Bathrooms had been installed and some interior walls torn down, he complained.

Deputies met under gunfire and shelling at Villa Mansour in 1976 to elect the late President Elias Sarkis.

"Some parliamentarians were driven to the meeting in tanks and armoured personnel carriers to protect them from flying shells and bullets," said a journalist who covered the event.

In 1982, when Beirut was besieged by invading Israeli troops, the session was held at the military academy of Fayyadiyah in suburbs of the city.

Parliament elected hardline rightist militia chief Bashir Gemayel as head of state. He was killed 21 days later and his brother Amin succeeded him.

Parliament has failed to meet with a sufficient number of deputies present to form a quorum

since June 1988. Many deputies are old and frail. The last election was in 1972 before the start of the war. Though elected for only four years their term has been extended every year or two since 1976.

Twenty-five members of the 99-member house have died. Four were assassinated including one killed on Sept. 21, one was killed by shelling in April and 20 died of old age.

The last seat to become vacant naturally was in 1982 when Amin Gemayel was elected head of state.

It was parliament's failure to meet in September 1988 to elect a successor that helped plunge Lebanon into its deepest political crisis since independence in 1943.

The defence officials, who asked not to be identified, refused to confirm or deny a New York Times report that the administration was pressing Israel not to oppose sale of the tanks, built by the General Dynamics Corporation.

The Times, quoting U.S. officials, said Friday the White House wanted an agreement in principle with Israel before Bush formally notified Congress. A strong pro-Israel lobby could oppose the sale as threatening to Israeli "security".

The sale of the tanks to the Saudis, who have already bought other sophisticated U.S. equipment such as F-15 jet fighters and radar planes, would put Saudi Arabia on a footing with Egypt as an Arab purchaser of American arms.

The United States last year signed an agreement with Egypt to co-produce M-1 tanks. Baker said U.S. officials gave

Saudi paper says Iran a terrorist regime

NICOSIA (R) — A Saudi Arabian newspaper branded Iran a terrorist state Saturday, as a renewed war-of-words erupted between the kingdom and its radical neighbour across the Gulf.

"Iranian press campaigns to discredit the judgement of heaven and Islamic Sharia are not strange or new... and we in the kingdom and the Muslim World do not expect a regime based on terrorism other than continue defending terrorism," Jeddah-based Al Madina said.

The paper's comments, carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, follow a Saudi statement Friday expressing surprise over what it called Iran's defence of 16 Kuwaiti bombers, 10 of them of Iranian origin, publicly beheaded in Mecca last week.

A Pakistani pilgrim was killed and 16 Muslims were wounded in the blasts during the Hajj pilgrimage in July.

One of the bombers confessed on Saudi television that he had received explosives from the Iranian embassy in Kuwait and said embassy officials trained the group. Iran denied its involvement and accused Saudi Arabia of planting the bombs.

Al Madina said Iran's history was "full of plots against Muslims to prevent them from performing the pilgrimage."

Another Jeddah-based newspaper, Al Bilad, said the Saudi statement "affirmed to everybody the nature of the rulers of Tehran and their methods of cheap deceit, instigation and manoeuvres."

It said Saudi Arabia "will never hesitate to defend Islamic holy places and the kingdom."

About 1,000 supporters of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah vowed Friday to avenge the execution of 16 Kuwaitis.

The demonstrators were led by a dozen turbaned clergy members who marched behind huge posters of the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and a portrait of his successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The demonstrators were led by a dozen turbaned clergy members who marched behind huge posters of the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and a portrait of his successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The demonstrators did not include any of the top figures of Hizbollah, which is believed to be the umbrella for underground cells holding most of the 16 Western hostages in Lebanon, including eight Americans.

A large number of Iranians gathered Thursday at the Beheist

Zahra cemetery outside Tehran to mourn the 16 Kuwaitis beheaded in Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported in a dispatch monitored Friday in Cyprus.

Ten defendants convicted by an Islamic court of child abuse and murder were beheaded in Saudi Arabia Friday, the Interior Ministry announced.

Six of the criminals had kidnapped an unspecified number of minors for burglaries, highway robberies and "acts of abuse," the statement said without elaborating. They all were Saudis, tried and executed in the capital, Riyadh.

The other four killed a man, stole his money and then murdered a fifth accomplice, the statement said. These convicts were Yemenis and were executed in the southwestern part of the kingdom. Some one million Yemenis live in the kingdom.

The announcement cited the Koranic ruling that criminals are beheaded.

Saudi Arabia has expressed astonishment at Iran's "defence to the death" of the 16.

In an official statement distributed by Riyadh Radio, the kingdom said it rejects such "provocative" campaigns and any interference in its internal affairs.

The statement said Saudi Arabia also rejected the flurry of threats from Iran and pro-Iranian fundamentalist groups that followed the executions.

It warned against "any excesses... from any source wherever it may be" against the kingdom, the sacred Islamic sites it harbours or anybody in Saudi Arabia.

The statement, attributed to a "responsible government source," said the kingdom was still "ready to respond to any positive initiative of good intent" for healing the growing rift between the two countries.

The statement said the kingdom firmly believed that Islamic solidarity was a must for the good of the Muslim world.

"The kingdom will not relinquish its calm and objective course in dealing with the provocative and seditious campaigns and rises above involvement with Iran or others in foolish exchanges that can bring no good to the (Islamic) Nation," it said.

The statement said the kingdom was "astounded" at the "enthusiasm of those Iranian officials in defending the criminals and the murderers who committed a horrendous act in the most sacred (Islamic) spot... an unprecedented crime."

Iran reasserts readiness to seek hostage release

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Friday reasserted his government's opposition to hostage-taking and said it remained willing to help secure the release of Westerners held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

But he reiterated long-standing conditions for helping the United States.

He told a news conference that improved ties between the two countries depended on U.S. release of Iranian assets frozen a decade ago during the Iranian revolution and payment of compensation to victims of the Iranian plane shot down in July 1988 by an American warship, killing 250 passengers.

Velayati, in New York for the U.N. General Assembly, also blamed Iraq for a lack of progress in peace talks and said regional instability could flare again into crisis.

He said Iran was ready to resume direct talks with Iraq and

urged the U.N. Security Council, which ordered the regional ceasefire that took effect in August 1988, to become more active in bringing the two sides together.

The foreign minister said the Bush administration, like its predecessor, acted in a hostile way towards Tehran.

U.S.-Iranian ties were broken in 1979 when the U.S.-backed Shah was overthrown and student revolutionaries held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

Washington believes Iran has great influence with pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon holding Western hostages, including nine Americans, and has said relations cannot improve until they are released.

The administration has said it would hold talks but make no deals with kidnappers or with Tehran.

"We are against hostage-taking and we believe keeping people hostage is against humanitarian rights," Velayati said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran-Iraq observer group mandate extended

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council unanimously approved Friday a six-month extension of the U.N. observer group monitoring the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, until March 31, 1990. The U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), comprising 408 officers from 26 countries, was set up in August 1988, shortly before the ceasefire went into force. The council also issued a new call for Iran and Iraq to implement a July 1987 resolution outlining a peace plan. But the ceasefire is the only element so far put into effect. The council meeting lasted only a few minutes and there were no speeches.

Senate confirms Brown as envoy to Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate Friday confirmed President George Bush's nomination of Ambassador William Brown, a career foreign service officer, to be U.S. ambassador to Israel. Brown has been serving in the post since he was named by former President Ronald Reagan during a congressional recess late last year.

Afghan pilot seeks asylum, Pakistan says

ISLAMABAD (R) — An Afghan air force pilot flew his MiG-21 to Pakistan Friday and asked for political asylum. A Pakistani military spokesman said Major Jalaluddin was on a mission near the Afghan city Jalalabad when he broke away from his formation and landed at Peshawar, where the main Afghan rebel groups have their headquarters. Defections by pilots of the Soviet-backed Kabul government have been fairly common throughout "11-year-old civil war. A SU-22 piloted by Captain Jan Mohammad landed at Peshawar July 6. A few days earlier two helicopters were flown across the border to Pakistan. The main rebel news agency Mida said Jalaluddin had asked to be handed over to the rebel government-in-exile.

Baker backs dialogue proposal

(Continued from page 1)

Soviet offer

when Mubarak called Shamir Friday night with greetings for the Jewish New Year.

Israeli government spokesman could not be reached to confirm the report, which said no date had been set for the meeting.

Mubarak also told Shamir he wanted to further the peace process and hoped his efforts so far would not lead to the break-up of Israel's coalition government, the radio said.

Political sources said Shamir had been angry that Mubarak had so far refused to deal with him, in an apparent attempt to isolate him politically.

The sources said that during meetings in New York this week both Peres and Likud Foreign Minister Moshe Arens advised Mubarak, from different perspectives, that it was a tactical mistake to isolate Shamir.

The PLO has accepted an offer by the Soviet Union to host a meeting between the PLO and Israel to seek a solution to the Middle East conflict.

Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, announced in a statement published by the official Palestinian news agency WAFA, "the acceptance by the PLO of this proposition and invited the Israeli government to respond favourably and to go into the dialogue without preconditions."

The Soviet offer was made in New York Thursday by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who said Moscow would be willing to act as an intermediary between Israel and the PLO and organise a meeting between the two sides on Soviet territory.

Former Sudanese official acquitted

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Dr. Pacifico Lado Loleik, a member of the former five-man state council, the body that served as Sudan's collective presidency before the June 30 military coup, has been acquitted of charges of corruption.

A military court, headed by Colonel Abdul Wahab Osman, also acquitted Loleik's office manager, Samir Khamis, of the same charges.

The court said it found the two men "not guilty" for "lack of evidence" incriminating them of hoarding medicines and other charges levelled against them.

Loleik is the third Sudanese official to stand trial on corruption in recent weeks.

Idris Ali Banna, another member of the state council, was sentenced to 40 years in jail last month after being found guilty of abusing power and financial mis-

management. He will only serve 20 years because that is the maximum prison term that can be served under the law.

Former Attorney General Osman Omar Al Sherif received a five-year imprisonment term for abusing authority and selling public land without following procedures required by the law.

Former Prime Minister Sadeq Mahdi and 30 other former officials have been in custody since the June 30 military coup led by Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

MPs penniless

Penniless Sudanese members of parliament (MPs) who lost their jobs when the coup swept Bashir to power want the military government to pay for their return home.

Nineteen southerners say in a

petition to the ruling military junta they are so hard up that the only way they and their families can return home is if the government pays.

"We are unable even to provide the basic daily needs of our families such as feeding, house rents and electricity rates," a copy of the petition obtained by Reuters said.

Former MP David Poru said he and his colleagues wanted to return to their villages so they could grow crops to feed their families.

A spokesman for the junta said the petition was being studied.

Sudanese rebels Friday rejected a suggestion by Bashir that secession of the south could end six years of civil war.

"Secession is a formula which would not take Sudan any closer to peace," a spokesman for the rebel Sudan People's Liberation

Army (SPLA), told Reuters in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

Bashir said Thursday that he would seriously consider letting the south become an independent state if all southerners agreed.

But SPLA spokesman Nephil Deng Nephil said that for the SPLA secession was out of the question.

"The issue of secession falls out of the programme of the SPLA and as such we categorically reject it," he said.

The SPLA has fought since 1983 to end what it views as the unfair domination of southern Sudan by the north.

It demands abolition of Islamic law and says it wants to create a secular state and bring a broad-based elected government to power in Khartoum which would give equal rights to all religious and ethnic groups in the country.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
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PROGRAMME ONE	
18:30	Koran
18:45	Programme review
19:15	Children programme
19:30	Football
19:45	News summary in Arabic
20:00	Local programme
20:15	Give Me a Break
20:30	Local programme
20:45	Programme review
21:00	News in Arabic
21:15	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:45	Local programme
22:00	Varities programme
22:15	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Loft story
18:30	L'ecole de fans
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varities programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:15	Perfect Strangers
21:00	Doc. "Road to World War II"
22:00	News in English
22:30	Midnight Caller
PRAYER TIMES	
05:00	Fajr
06:25	(Sunrise) Duha
12:25	Dhuhr
16:45	Asr
18:25	Maghreb

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623666	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assunta International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be relatively hot and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	

EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department 661111	
Civil Defence Emergency 199	
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 657777	
Fire Brigade 891228	
Blood Bank 636140	
Highway Police 843402	
Traffic Police 890390	
Public Security Department 630321	
Hotel Complaints 605800	
Price Complaints 661176	
Water and Sewerage 897467	
Complaints 787111	
Complaints 787111	
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121	
Overseas Calls 010290	
Central Amman Telephone 623101	
Repairs 661101	
Abdali Telephone Repairs 773111	
Radio Jordan 774111	
Water Authority 690100	
Jordan Electricity Authority 816115	

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32	
Khalid Maternity, J. Amm. 642616	
Khalid Maternity, J. Amm. 642412	
Jafar Amman Maternity 642362	
Matlab, J. Amman 636140	
Palatine, Shmeisat 771012	
Shmeisat Hospital 661171	
University Hospital 845943	
Al-Musaber Hospital 6672719	
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757	
Al-Ahli, Abdali 771012	
Italian, Al-Musaber 661171	
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126	
Army, Marka 89161115	
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050	
Amal Hospital 674155	
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323	
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071	
Im Sam Hospital (09)986732	
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555	
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275	
Im Al Nafces Hospital (02)247100	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
18:10	Jeddah (RJ)
18:15	Kuwait (RJ)
18:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
19:05	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
19:15	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
19:20	Paris (RJ)
19:30	Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
19:45	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:55	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:58	Kuwait (RJ)
20:05	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
20:15	Tripoli (RJ)

01:15	Baghdad (RU)	19:45	Jeddah (SV)
		21:25	Sanaa (LI)
		21:30	Benghazi (add.) (LV)
		23:30	Aden (OA)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

03:20	Dubai (AZ)
06:20	Cairo (SV)
13:35	Sharjah, Doha (GF)
14:30	Kuwait (KU)
14:45	Kuwait (LV)
17:25	Jeddah (SV)
20:25	Frankfurt (LH)
20:30	Baghdad (add.) (LV)
22:45	Aden (OA)
01:05	London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

11:45	Rome (RJ)
12:25	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:30	Istanbul, Vienna (RJ)
12:35	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
12:40	Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
21:00	Larissa (RJ)
21:15	Baghdad (RJ)
21:20	Cairo (RJ)
21:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:15	Sanaa (RJ)
22:15	Damascus (RJ)
22:15	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:30	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25	Rome (AZ)
10:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)
14:05	Cairo (MS)
15:35	Kuwait (KU)
15:45	Doha, Bahrain (GF)
16:00	Tripoli (LI)

MARKET PRICES

Uppercut/lower price in fitt per kg.

Apple (golden)	540 / 500
Apple (red)	580 / 230
Banana	400 / 350
Banana (Minkammas)	350 / 300
Beet	550 / 500
Cabbage	170 / 140
Cauliflower	230 / 180
Caron	160 / 140
Cucumbers (large)	250 / 200
Cucumbers (small)	320 / 300
Dates	700 / 600
Eggplant	210 / 180
Fig	400 / 350
Garlic	900 / 800
Grapefruit	270 / 200
Grapes	340 / 200
Guava (red)	340 / 280
Guava	420 / 380
Lebanese	700 / 160
Lemon	130 / 100
Macrow (large)	180 / 150
Macrow (small)	340 / 280
Okra	260 / 250
Onion (dry)	260 / 200
Pepper (hot)	170 / 140
Pepper (sweet)	270 / 240
Pumpkin	330 / 280
Potato	350 / 300
Spinach	280 / 240
Sweet Melon	320 / 280
Tomatoes	160 / 120
Water Melon	160 / 120

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

AMBASSADORS SWORN IN: Ambassadors Shaker Hussein Bak, Qassem Mohammad Ghezawi, and Nayef Sa'ud Al Qadi Saturday sworn in before His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Hashemite Court. Present were Chief of the Royal Court Mudar Badran and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Foreign Minister Ibrahim Izziddin. (Petra)

IZZIDDIN STANDS FOR QASEM: A Royal Decree was issued Saturday entrusting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim Izziddin with the duties of Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem who left for New York to lead Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the U.N. General Assembly. (Petra)

ENDORSED: The council of ministers Saturday approved a host of agreements endorsed by the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) higher committee during the Sanaa summit of Sept. 25. These agreements are designed to develop and reinforce cooperation among the ACC countries in the fields of industry, trade, information, culture, energy, health, awqaf, and transport.

CABINET ENDORSES AGREEMENT WITH UAE: The Cabinet Saturday endorsed a cultural agreement with the United Arab Emirates for the years 1989, 1990 and 1991. The agreement provides for bilateral cooperation in education, higher education and the exchange of visits by officials, sports teams and experts in social development. The Cabinet also announced its approval for the secondment of 45 teachers to work for government schools in Qatar. The decision was in implementation of a 1976 agreement. (Petra)

FROZEN CHICKEN PRICED: Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayoub Saturday issued a decision raising the price of frozen chicken. According to the decision, frozen chicken will be sold at JD 1 a kilogramme in all parts of the Kingdom effective Oct. 1, 1989. This decision nullifies any decision issued earlier in this regard and violators will be prosecuted. (Petra)

SHOPPING CENTRE FOR AQABA: Aqaba Municipality announced Saturday that it has awarded a tender to a local company to set up a shopping centre at the Rimal District in the northern parts of Aqaba at the cost of JD 182,916. A spokesman for Aqaba Municipality said that the Cities and Villages Development Bank had agreed to loan Aqaba JD 250,000 to carry out development projects. (Petra)

KEILANI CONTINUES INSPECTION TOUR: Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani Saturday continued his inspection tours of water resources and examined with officials and technicians means of maintaining supply of fresh and pure water around the country. Keilani's tour took him Saturday to Ain Ghazal whose springs supply a good part of the capital with fresh water. The minister watched the purification processes and was briefed on safety measures. Later, the minister inspected a warehouse where the chlorine gas cylinders are stored for use in the purification process. On Thursday, Keilani made inspection tours of other regions where wastewater treatment plants are located. He said in a statement that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation will take specific measures designed to eliminate the sources of bad smell which had been polluting the atmosphere and causing inconvenience to the public in areas around the plants.

10,000 JOBS ABROAD FOR JORDANIANS: Contacts with Arab countries have resulted in finding nearly 10,000 jobs for Jordanians in Libya, North and South Yemen, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily Saturday. The report said that the three Arab countries have requested the services of Jordanian nurses, engineers, radiologists, geologists, tradesmen and school teachers. The report noted that the governments of Libya, North and South Yemen have already informed Jordan of their needs and that contacts will continue to finalise agreements. (Petra)

ACC ENERGY MINISTERS TO MEET ON OCT. 7: The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministers of oil will hold their first meeting in Baghdad on Oct. 7. The discussions will deal with cooperation in the field of oil and other sources of energy, standardisation of oil products specifications and exchange of information with regards to oil reserves. ACC experts in oil affairs will hold a meeting next Wednesday and Thursday to set the broad-lines of cooperation and pave the way for the first meeting of oil ministers. (Petra)

MAN FOUND STABBED AND STRANGLED: A 21-year-old man was found stabbed and strangled in his home at Tlaa Al Ali district of Amman Friday, according to a report in the local press. The man's mother and little brother had gone out in the afternoon and returned at nearly eight in the evening to find the victim, identified by the police only as M.M.D. dead, the report said. The police believe that the family flat was attacked by robbers who had to kill their victim before making away with unspecified amounts of stolen money and jewellery. The police were Saturday continuing their investigation into the case. (Petra)

ROMANIAN WEEK: Romanian folklore and traditional crafts will go on display at the Jerusalem Hotel Sunday at the start of a week-long event featuring life in Romania. The opening ceremony will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Ibn Talal. The event is being organised in cooperation with the Romanian embassy in Jordan. (Petra)

150,640 TRAVEL ON RJ IN AUGUST: Royal Jordanian, the national airline company, reported Saturday that 150,640 passengers travelled aboard RJ planes to and from different parts of the world during the month of August 1989 against 150,597 in the same month last year. It said in August 1989, RJ aircraft also transported 4,525 tonnes of various commodities against 3,537 tonnes in August 1988. (Petra)

LIVE TV PRESS CONFERENCE: The American Centre in Amman will host a live televised press conference via Worldnet on "the future of satellite communications and its meaning for television and radio broadcasters" Tuesday. This Worldnet dialogue will be held in conjunction with ITU-COM taking place in Geneva on Oct. 2 through Oct. 8. American experts from Washington, D.C. and New York City will answer questions on this topic from European experts located in several European cities. The programme will last one hour and will be in English. (Petra)

HOUSING PROJECTS IN ARAB COUNTRIES: The Arab League General Secretariat has stressed the need to assess housing projects in the Arab countries in accordance with its housing policies and development plans. In a statement issued Saturday on the Arab Housing Day anniversary, the Arab League General Secretariat referred to the challenges the Arab countries are facing with regards to housing and stressed that this situation entails setting a new Arab strategy designed to mass capabilities and reinforce joint Arab action to surmount difficulties in this field. (Petra)

RJ HEALTH INSURANCE FUND: The Royal Jordanian (RJ) has set up a committee to study establishing a health insurance fund for RJ employees in appreciation of their years of service. RJ sources said that the committee will prepare administrative and financial regulations related to the fund. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An Indian photographic exhibition — "Jawahar Lal Nehru, His Life and Times" — at the Students Activities Complex, University of Jordan.
- ★ An exhibition of watercolours on Jordan by Salim Kanan at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of Islamic scripts at Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Nature and Man" by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Hadidi at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition marking the 1st centennial of the Eiffel Tower displaying photographs, drawings and pictures demonstrating the tower in all its aspects at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.



Assad receives Egyptian, Philippine envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad Saturday had separate meetings with the Egyptian and Philippine ambassadors to Jordan Mahab Muqbel and Pasifico Castro. They discussed cooperation in higher education and courses between universities in the two countries and Jordanian universities. Assad

briefed the two ambassadors on Jordanian higher education policies and scientific research programmes. He also outlined the ministry's endeavours in areas to promote local communities. The photograph shows Assad meeting with Castro (Petra photo)

Jordan to observe Arab Child Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will observe Arab Child Day Monday, with cultural programmes and social activities for children organised by various organisations in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

According to a NHF statement, the week-long event which is to be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, entails entertainment programmes, educational field trips, seminars and lectures for the benefit of children.

A preparatory committee set

up by the NHF said that the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation will organise an art and literary work competition for the children on the occasion.

The contest will attract competitors in poetry, short story writing, painting and essay writing by children aged four to 15, according to the statement.

Winners will receive certificates of merit and other awards, the statement added.

The committee, which groups representatives of various concerned organisations as well as government departments, will

carry out or supervise wide ranging activities to be held under the slogan "children's culture and education is a national and pan-Arab duty to build the Arab citizen."

Book exhibitions and free medical examinations of children in various areas will be another aspect of the activities to be observed by schools and various institutions.

The various branches of the Haya Arts Centre, which caters for children, will hold an art and folklore festival with the participation of children from social development institutions.

At least 70,000 non-Jordanians work illegally in Jordan — Bdour

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan currently employs nearly 70,000 non-Jordanian workers who have acquired work permits, but there are at least a similar number working illegally in the Kingdom, Minister of Labour Jamal Bdour said in a statement Saturday.

To deal with the problem, the minister said, Labour Ministry inspection teams will be increased and their daily routine work will be intensified so as to expose the violators of the labour law and to open the way for Jordanian job seekers to find employment, the minister noted in a statement to Al Dustour daily.

Bdour said that the Labour Ministry discovered that it can not find substitutes for those employed as cleaners and garbage collectors, since no Jordanian wants to do this job, but the ministry has banned all businesses from employing non-Jordanian workers in secretarial, administrative, clerical, engineering and medical fields or petrol station attendants and other jobs.

The minister said that non-Jordanians are still being employed as domestic servants, agri-

cultural workers and nurses where no Jordanian substitutes have been found.

He said that at the same time the Ministry of Labour's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) is doing all it can to organise short and long term training courses for Jordanians wishing to take up jobs now filled by non-Jordanian workers.

At present, Jordan has some 12,000 non-Jordanian domestic servants and maids, largely due to the difficulty in finding local substitutes. But, the minister said, programmes have started to provide training for workers to be employed at charitable centres and homes for the aged.

"Should these programmes prove successful, the country would save up to \$15 million, now being paid to foreign workers," the minister noted.

Bdour said that he is a strong advocate of establishing small model integrated villages in all governorates of the Kingdom.

Such a project, he said, will open the way for university graduates to work in the agricultural field.

Such project, he added, will provide food supplies first to the local village and then to other parts of the country.

The minister urged the media and various departments to encourage school graduates to take up vocational training courses which can provide them with good qualifications and training for various types of jobs.

To help find a solution for the unemployment problem in Jordan, the minister said, the Labour Ministry has suggested that part-time jobs be offered to people so that school and university education should be geared to serve the national development, and the local labour market, and that the labour law be amended to provide for more security for workers.

According to Bdour, at least 5,000 Jordanian workers had been returning annually from the Gulf states over the past few years and the local market was saturated with job seekers.

But, he added, the latest expatriates conference held in Amman in the past summer helped to drastically curtail this number.

The second paper which deals with the role of women in socio-economic development has been submitted by Nadia Hajar, an Arab specialist in women's affairs.

The researcher underlines the fact that no continual development can be achieved without proper involvement of women on equal footing with men in urban and rural regions alike.

The paper tackles Arab women's position with regards to health and education, and their role in economic activities.

The third paper, by Mohammad Abdul Fatah, deals with population and the environment in the semi-arid, coastal and fertile lands of the Arab World.

The researcher presents case studies from Egypt, Libya and the Gulf area in ways of exploiting lands, population distributions and migrations.

UNFPA provides assistance through member organisations of the United Nations system such as UNDP, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

University to help raise funds for Cerebral Palsy Foundation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan will provide all possible support for the Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) in its endeavour to raise funds for its humanitarian projects, University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra said.

He made the pledge at a meeting with a CPF team that called on the university to discuss coop-

eration on the part of the university staff and students in the CPF's coming fund-raising event to be conducted in Jordan on Oct. 5, 1989.

CPF has been enlisting the help of students from schools, community colleges and universities to raise funds for its activities which started in Jordan in 1977.

Jordan, EC sign accord for new dams project

AMMAN (J.T.) — A consultancy agreement was signed at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation on Saturday for commencement of dams studies in the Mujib Valley.

The studies will be financed from a European Currency Unit (ECU) 2 million (JD 1.5 million) to Jordan for which a financing agreement was signed by the EC delegate in Amman and the Jordanian government last year.

The grant is part of the EC assistance programme to Jordan under the Third Protocol signed in 1988.

The study agreement was signed by the Secretary General of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, and Mr. Lawrence Attewill

of Howard Humphreys and Partners, who have been selected to carry out the studies in association with the Jordanian firm of Masar Engineering Ltd., Amman.

The studies, to be carried out over a period of two years, include the feasibility and design of two dams in the Mujib basin south-east of the Jordan Valley.

The initial phase of the study will examine the technical and economic feasibility for the building of dams across the Wala and Nukheila rivers with a projected combined storage capacity of 45

million cubic metres of water. This stage of the study will include hydrological data collection, geotechnical analysis, estimating construction costs, and an assessment of the use to which the water resources can best be put in relation to the needs of irrigation, industrial and domestic consumers.

Once the feasibility has been determined, the consultant will prepare the final design and tender documents for the launching of the construction tender in Europe and Jordan.

Under the consultancy agreement the consultant will also assist in the evaluation of tender offers and contract negotiations for the award of the construction contracts.

Ladies plan for elections too

By Suhair Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At first sight it would look like one of the too many female gatherings that the ladies of Amman hold for their friends to dance, exchange gossip, and have some refreshments.

But stepping inside the house in question, one sees women sitting around in large circles with note pads and poised pens. A closer curious look reveals the centre of their attention — huge files of some lists with names.

The ladies are busy checking the lists of names and copying some of them on their note pads. It seems they are planning a big party, where most of their friends will be invited, and they are merely making sure that nobody is left out.

Just a second; this is something else. Do not rush to your wardrobes trying to figure out what to wear, for it seems there would not be a big social party in the offing after all.

Some might be a bit disappointed, but more would jump to the idea when they realise that it is a sort of political gathering and these ladies are planning for "elections."

The "suspicious" lists are nothing else but the names of

female voters registered in the same constituency. The ladies go through them together then each takes the names of her acquaintances, in order to call them up and ask them to vote for a certain candidate.

A party lover would probably say "social or non social, it is still a party, and it might even be more fun," and judging by the large number of ladies present, it seems that they are indeed enjoying what they are doing.

"We call women we know and introduce our candidate to them, hoping they too would vote for him/her," one of the participants said.

Commenting on the large number of both candidates and voters, one of the women complimented it as being "practical and convenient and the more the merrier," she said.

A woman with a business-like attitude talked about the absence of national participation in the political scene for over a decade, "this might as well pave the way for people to start getting used to the idea," she said.

A non-chalant housewife said she took part just because her friend asked her to help her in making calls. "I am not really into elections, and I would vote for the candidate my husband

votes for," she said.

A middle aged, enthusiastic working woman expressed her satisfaction that people are finally free to choose their representatives. "It is essential for us — men and women as we have equal votes — to practice our right in voting for the candidate we think is best in representing us," she said.

The same woman strongly argued that a woman who remains passive and does not take part in the elections, must be blamed, because this would reflect upon her own home, husband and children. "You cannot draw a dividing line between the life at home and the one outside it, because one inevitably, complements the other," she said.

"It is our duty to spread (political) awareness especially among women. It is really saddening to see some of them being so neutral about the whole issue of elections," one of the women said, adding "we as women, represent a big slice of this society and we too must participate in drawing its future policies."

All said and done, it will be timely noted to potential voters: If the phone rings, it could be the camp follower of one of the other candidates.



Minister of Labour Jamal Bdour inaugurates the opening session of a seminar on labour statistics in the Arab World. (Petra photo)

9 Arab states begin 3-day seminar on labour statistics

AMMAN (Petra) — Experiments in labour related fields in Jordan and eight other Arab states will be scrutinised in a three-day seminar on labour statistics in the Arab World which opened here Saturday. The experiments are outlined in 15 working papers that dwell on labour statistics, sources of these statistics, methods of gathering information about labour, use of labour statistics in decision-making and planning development schemes, according to a spokesman for the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), which is organising the meeting in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour.

Issues related concerning a number of Arab organisations, such as the Arab Labour Union, the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development, and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, will be taken up by the delegates who represent 10 Arab countries, the spokesman said.

Minister of Labour Jamal Bdour inaugurated the opening session with a speech in which he underlined the importance of statistics for planners and for sociologists, and governments.

He said that accurate information about labour and labour situations, labourers and the work force can be instrumental in working out and in the execution of development plans.

Bdour said in Jordan, statistics about workers came mainly from the general census on population, demographic surveys, reports on employment, trade unions, employers unions, the Social Security Corporation and official statistics records at the Department of Statistics.

Accurate statistics on workers and the labour market is useful for Arab governments in launching plans to curtail unemployment or deal with other labour-related problems, the minister said.

The seminar, Bdour said, will address questions related to the

Arab World's workforce, demand on labourers, the role of women as an active element in economic development.

CAEU Secretary General Hassan Ibrahim said that the council strives to facilitate the free flow and movement of Arab workers within the Arab region regardless of borders.

Ibrahim referred to labour agreements signed by Arab countries in 1968 and 1978 which, he said, paved the way for an Arab central statistics bureau, working under CAEU auspices.

This bureau has been set up to help the CAEU to promote the concept of Arab economic unity, Ibrahim added.

The first session dealt with a working paper by Dr. Mousa Samha from the University of Jordan, who discussed sources of statistics and means of gathering information on labour affairs.

Jordan, Bahrain, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Egypt, Palestine, South Yemen and Libya are represented at the meeting.

JMA to prepare for pan-Arab medical conference in May 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Medical Association (JMA) Saturday set up a committee to prepare for a pan-Arab medical conference and the seventh Jordanian meeting which will be held in Amman next year.

A JMA statement said that 1,500 Arab and foreign doctors and specialists will be invited to take part in the coming conference which will be held under the slogan of "Arab Doctors in support of the Palestinian intifada."

The three-day conference, the statement said, will discuss a wide

range of topics including primary health care, treatment of burns, cancer, cardiac diseases and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

During the conference, which is expected in May 1990, an exhibition of medicines and medical appliances will be organised with the participation of several pharmaceutical companies from the Arab World and foreign countries, the statement said.

The first conference by Arab surgeons which opened here last Wednesday heard an appeal by

Dr. Hassan Khreiss, secretary general of the Federation of Arab Doctors, to all governments to extend support and financial and moral backing for the Palestinian doctors in a bid to enhance the Palestinian people's steadfastness.

Khreiss spoke of Israeli measures which include closure of hospitals and health centres to reduce medical services to Arab people and other inhuman actions designed to force the Arab population to abandon their homeland.

Jordan Times

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Editorial Director:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

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Public involvement key to protection

THE WANTON negligence that lie behind the recent string of incidents that affected public health and posed environmental hazards has its roots in many years of disregard for contemporary standards of safety. The proliferation of such grave incidents in recent times has led the government of Sharif Zaid Iba Shaker to take drastic action culminating in the formation of a high-powered committee charged with the task of uprooting the practices that contributed to these violations of normal safeguards. The composition of the committee is widespread and comprises all ministries and departments that may have a link with the issues of public health and environmental controls.

Yet, there are things that still trouble concerned Jordanians who, of course, were more than gratified and appreciative of the decision to establish such a public body to monitor the health and environmental situations in the country. One of them is the projected monthly meetings of the committee. In view of the gravity of the situation in connection with public health and environmental protection as evidenced by the rise of incidents in those domains, we hope that the newly-created public organ will meet more frequently to stay abreast of the issues and subjects related to this entire matter. It must be expected that other serious incidents would surface sooner or later as the foundation of past official action in these contexts is clearly lacking in more ways than one. This proposition should have propelled the government to keep the new committee in constant session until it fully comes into grips with the root problems. In other words, what the country needs is not reactive action to disaster but rather preemptive action-oriented measures that will ensure the end of the cycle of incidents threatening public health and posing environmental hazards.

Another matter that is amiss in this recent endeavor to stem the incidents that posed a threat to life and environment is the non-involvement of the consumer protection society. Without the participation of the people in the exchange of views on how best to protect man and environment from the whims of negligent practices or omissions, no action, no matter how sincere and operational, can succeed. It is high time that the country took more affirmative action to involve the public in matters that affect their health and environment. Surely, it must have dawned on all of us that without the direct involvement of the public in such pursuits, the desired objectives would remain elusive.

Lastly but not least, one would expect that violators of public health and environment will be tried by ordinary courts of the land rather than martial law courts. To begin with the public has a vested interest that the culprits are tried in a court system where maximum publicity can be generated. Secondly, since the country's jurisdiction in such matters needs elaboration and development, their adjudication before martial law courts would frustrate that objective. Thirdly, martial law was introduced to cope with issues derived from the 1967 war and one fails to see any connection between that war and recent or ancient cases of criminal negligence.

One trusts that all or at least some of these salient observations would be incorporated in the much appreciated policy to aggressively deal with public health violations and threats to our environment.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Saturday strongly attacked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for stating that peace in the Middle East cannot come as a result of the Palestinian uprising or through the PLO. The paper said that Shamir rejects the idea of peace with the Palestinians and rejects the idea of involving Palestinians in the peace process. This renewed rejection of peace bids on the part of the Israeli government constitutes an outright rejection of the Egyptian 10-point peace plan, and the ideas of the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, said the paper. Shamir's statement followed on the heels of a meeting in the United States between the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States during which the Egyptian plan was studied, the paper added. It said the new development is bound to place fresh obstacles in the path of peace efforts, and is also bound to place the U.S. administration face to face with a difficult test. Washington is therefore called on to deal with the Israeli intransigence and find the proper machinery to give momentum to the peace process, the paper said. It also stressed that any lasting peace should involve the Palestinian people and their legitimate representatives.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Saturday discusses the Lebanese question in the light of a meeting by Lebanon's deputies in Ta'if. Ibrahim Sakdijha describes the meeting, opening Saturday as the first step on the road to a lasting settlement of the 15-year old civil war. The meeting is indeed the first step since no one expects miracles, but hard and prolonged discussions before an acceptable peace formula can be reached to pacify all the conflicting parties, the writer notes. Of course, there had been other first steps in the past and there had been meetings among the leaders of the warring parties which led to nothing; but this time it seems that the concerned parties are sincerely determined to reach a solution now that they had realised that nothing can be achieved through fighting, says the writer. The meeting which starts in Saudi Arabia Saturday should be continued in Lebanon under the Arab League auspices and with the help of Arab leaders so that hope can increase about a final settlement, the writer continues. What is most encouraging, he adds, is the current ceasefire which is still holding, and helping the parliamentarians to focus their attention on a final solution.

Al Dastour daily also dwelt on the question of Lebanon and said that the current ceasefire has definitely paved the way for the Ta'if meeting where the deputies are bound to work out a plan for peace. The paper said that the past 14 years of conflict in Lebanon proved to the leaders of the warring factions that there can be no vanquished nor conqueror in the Lebanese arena, and that there is need to safeguard the country's sovereignty and independence above all other considerations. The Arab League, the paper said, is to be commended for starting the peace process and there is no doubt that millions of Arabs are now watching with interest the Lebanese people.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Uncertainty hinders investment

JORDAN'S main economic indicators are currently registering positive results. This gives us assurances that the economy is going the right direction. The economy is getting closer to the desired objectives, after a long period of negative signals, that indicated we were going as fast as we could in the wrong direction, despite the red lights.

During the current year, imports were reduced and exports increased. Central Bank reserves rose; the exchange rate of the dinar improved; the budget deficit narrowed; and industry, agriculture and services are now operating at a higher ratio of capacity utilisation. Indicators of the fundamentals of the economy could not be better in view of the short period of adjustment and past expectations.

What is still lacking is the recovery of domestic investment. Investments are the only sure way for sustained economic growth and the creation of new job opportunities. The growth of exports also has a limit unless accompanied by continued additions of new production units.

The government has so far succeeded on the financial, monetary and trading fronts. It still has a formidable job to perform in the investment front. Investments that I am referring to are not of course the public investments. The financial situation

does not allow for any expansion in public expenditure. The reference is to private investment.

Investments by the private sector are yet to materialise. Entrepreneurs did not advance forcefully to take up the huge opportunities opened by the current situation, especially the drop in the capacity of the country to import, and the inevitable shift towards local production, and the restoration of Jordan's competitiveness in the market of exports. There are of course real factors contributing to the negative mood of the private sector, and the hesitation of private capital to take the risk. The private sector is known to be flexible and realistic. Its mood can shift from pessimism to optimism as soon as it becomes evident that the indicators are encouraging. It is true that capital is cautious and fearful, but it is equally true that capital is eager to jump into opportunities when they become wide open.

The government is called upon at this stage to clean up the investment climate, and to remove the obstacles facing serious and potential investors. Too much has been said about an investment climate, but very little has been done so far. This job requires a lot of real reform. The most important and broad element that comes to mind is certainty, without which investors do not come forth.

Businessmen and other decision-makers in Jordan do not know exactly what is the exchange rate policy. The Central Bank prefers to keep its options open. That may be convenient to the management of the Central Bank, but it creates uncertainty, and does not serve the cause of investment climate. The Ministry of Finance talked much about reforms of the taxation system, but we don't know yet what to expect, even in the very short term. The Ministry of Industry and Trade is serious about influencing the flow of imports and exports in order to reduce the gap in the trading account, however we have no idea of what positive and negative incentives it will employ to achieve its objectives and to motivate the desired behaviour of foreign trade. The Economic Security Committee is still alive and active. It can overrule by a strike of the pen all laws and regulations, which are the assuring factor for investors, owners and creditors.

The real challenge facing the government at this stage is to wrap up its other successes by removing the barriers facing new investment. We should remember: investors are extremely informed and knowledgeable people. They could not be convinced merely by the word of mouth. They should see things happening on the ground. Only the real thing can give effective results with investors.

Hauser says 'peace is possible' in the Middle East

By Norma S. Holmes

WASHINGTON — Peace in the Middle East is possible if both Arabs and Israelis "give up the radiant dream" of territorial aspirations, according to Rita Hauser, an international lawyer long engaged with efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. "I believe peace is possible. You know there are great conflicts in the world which have been resolved," Hauser told students, faculty and regional experts September 26 in an address at Georgetown University.

Citing the history of three bitter wars between France and Germany, Hauser said, "Today it is inconceivable for young Frenchmen or young Germans to go to war over a piece of land, so healing is possible, but you have to begin first, and this is what we are all about."

Hauser, who is currently chairman of the American section of the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East and a

member of the board of governors of the American Jewish Committee, was among a group of American Jews who met with Palestinian Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat shortly before his public statement of PLO policy that led to the opening of U.S.-PLO talks.

The next step in the peace process is for the PLO "to somehow make a breakthrough with the Israeli public," Hauser said, noting that the Israeli people are not convinced the PLO has really abandoned its "old dream."

Hauser said this is something that frightens Israelis. Both Israelis and Palestinians have had "equally provocative" territorial aspirations, she noted. "But since it is Israel who must take the first steps forward in the peace process it is incumbent upon the PLO to understand the psychological state of Israel. It would be very helpful for the PLO to continually reinforce that it has given up the old dreams."

Compromise between these two is seen as necessary by others deeply concerned with the peace process, Hauser pointed out.

She said Secretary of State Baker, in his address to the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in May of 1989 also expressed the idea, and it was explored in a well-known book, "Arab Strategies and Israel's Response" by Professor Yehoshafat Harkabi, former chief of Israeli military intelligence.

But Hauser said Harkabi, in his book, calls on both sides — Israelis and Palestinians — to "give up these radiant dreams." Hauser stressed that "this extraordinary general is the leading authority on the PLO covenant and the formation of the PLO." She added, "In the last two years he (Harkabi) has come around to the conclusion that there can be no other solution but a dialogue between the PLO and Israel and the establishment of a Palestinian state."

In his book, Hauser said, Harkabi also called for compromise, concluding "the radiant dream is not conceivable. What is conceivable is a division of this land dear to two peoples who are contesting it at the same time." Hauser said the land can be divided by the Israelis and Palestinians, although at this point they "cannot live together."

Stressing that "there are prices on both sides," Hauser warned that "the longer this conflict goes on, the deeper the hatred and antagonism, especially among the young children...on both sides."

She said the intifada or uprising has also had a tremendous impact upon the Israeli people. "It has created an agony among so many Jews about what is happening. Many (Israelis) don't want to know. They simply turn a blind eye. They don't want to know about it. They don't want to hear about it, but somewhere in their subliminal mind it is reaching them... It's distressing, it's pain-

ful. It goes to the heart of self-definition, of what it is to be Jewish and what it has meant to be Jews over seven millennia."

In her ongoing talks with Palestinians, Hauser said, one idea now being discussed is the concept of "the five minute state." Hauser said Palestinians are now saying "as long as we have our state for even five minutes, and we can have a flag, and a passport and it is ours — we can freely decide to confederate with Jordan — or that we confederate with Israel, Jordan and Palestine like the Benelux model."

The concept of federation is an idea also being floated among Israelis now, Hauser said. "What the Palestinians will not accept," she asserted, "is that someone else determine that situation for them."

She said although the Benelux states (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) began as an economic confederation, "Be-

nelux is evolving now in the context of a unified Europe into perhaps "something more." But the idea of open doors, no customs, free movement of labour — all of that can go a long way toward easing the current situation (in the Israeli-occupied territories)."

The real question to be asked now, she said, is "can you get to the end solution without further agony on both sides? Or must events be played out in a terrible way? The Lebanese analogy is there?"

Unable to agree on their own policy, Hauser said "the Lebanese have wound up killing each other in the most barbaric manner of any people at the end of the 20th century. The dilemma of Lebanon has escalated in the most extraordinary degree conceivable."

"Now the region is confronted not only with nuclear weapons but chemical arsenals. That is something that all parties to this conflict have to understand" — USIA.

West turns its back as Cambodia rises from the ashes

By Vanora Bennett
Reuters

PHNOM PENH — In the 11 years since the Khmer Rouge fled Phnom Penh, this city has been transformed from a ghost town to a poor but bustling commercial centre.

It has become a symbol of Cambodia's rebirth from the ashes of its wretched past, a source of pride for its government and people who have painstakingly rebuilt houses, roads, schools and irrigation systems.

But the West has largely turned its back on Cambodia's achievements.

Cambodia is the only country in the world to be denied development by the United Nations. The U.N. recognises a guerrilla coalition dominated by the Khmer Rouge as Cambodia's rightful government.

"The international aid embargo means that Cambodia will stay poor, hungry and underdeveloped," Eva Mysliwiec of Oxfam, a private British aid agency, said in Phnom Penh.

Western governments spurn diplomatic or economic contact with the government because it was set up by Hanoi.

Soviet-backed Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978 to oust the arch-nationalist Khmer Rouge, who killed a million people in their four-year reign of terror.

Vietnam says it completed the withdrawal from Cambodia of its army earlier this week, washing its hands of further costly involvement with its neighbour and in theory opening the way to resumption of ties with the West.

Cambodians who have spent a decade rebuilding the country now say they don't need Western recognition to survive.

"For 10 years we've worked very hard and we wonder why the United States and the United Nations don't recognise us," Thon Kon, the mayor of Phnom Penh, told Reuters.

"No one has suffered like our people. No other country has been rebuilt from nothing with bare hands, like ours."

"But we've come this far without their help, and we can continue without them if they won't recognise us."

When the present government took over in January 1979, Phnom Penh was empty, its people sent to work in ricefields. Kon said two-thirds of the city's houses had been torn down for

firewood. Road, water and electricity networks had been destroyed.

Two of the city's three waterworks have been repaired, Kon said, but "when it rains, the city floods and there's floating sewage in some places because the Khmer Rouge destroyed the sewers."

"Before the war there was hydroelectric power but that station was destroyed. People have tapped electricity into their houses off the cables along main streets."

"We're starting to repair the system but we don't have enough equipment. We suggest our international friends help us."

"We have 360,000 families in Phnom Penh, so living standards are not good. But if we compare life this year with life in 1979 it's clear things have developed a lot," Kon said.

Aid workers here say the attitude of Western governments to Cambodia is confused and single out the United States for particular criticism.

"The United States has never had a proper Cambodia policy," one American relief worker said. "It's seen Cambodia as an appendage of Vietnam ever since the Vietnam war. It's the logic of the cold war."

Phnom Penh has cobbled together a reconstruction budget using official aid from Vietnam and the Soviet Union, who have also helped train and equip a new body of technocrats to replace those killed by the Khmer Rouge.

"The great success of (Prime Minister) Hun Sen has been to avoid remodelling the country along Soviet or Vietnamese lines. He's using all the help he can get but it's going to build a new and more independent Cambodia," one aid worker said.

Cambodia received about \$21 million of aid from Western non-government organisations in 1988.

Cambodians themselves are cautious about foreign promises of help after decades of being pushed around by bigger countries.

Many are attracted by the idea of American help, but remember with bitterness the futile U.S. bombing of Cambodia in the early 1970 to smoke out North Vietnamese Communists sheltering in the country.

"The best kind of help would be American, but not if they help us and bomb us at the same time," one Cambodian woman said.

Who killed Dr. King and why?

By John Edgington and John Sergeant

AT 6.01 p.m., on April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was leaning over a second-floor balcony at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, talking to his chauffeur, Solomon Jones, who was on the ground floor, when there was a shot. A high-velocity dum-dum bullet hit Dr. King in the neck, severing his spinal column and leaving an exit hole that, according to the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, was "so big I could have put both my fists in it." One hour later, in St. Joseph's hospital in Memphis, King died.

His death was a tragedy that wrecked the hopes of a non-violent civil rights movement — in the immediate aftermath 30 people died in riots that hit 64 cities — and the American black community lost a national figurehead that it has found impossible to replace.

Like Kennedy, Dr. King had become a figure of world stature — he was the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. His leadership of the civil rights struggle in the U.S. had made a powerful impact on black and oppressed communities throughout the world, including Britain.

That is why it seemed vital even 21 years later, that the unanswered questions surrounding King's death should be thoroughly investigated for signs of cover-up or conspiracy.

In spite of the arrest at Heathrow Airport, two months after the murder, of a small-time crook, James Earl Ray, his subsequent guilty plea and 99-year sentence, the American public has expressed widespread dissatisfaction with the verdict. According to a 1969 Harris poll, only 12 per cent believed that Ray was the sole killer. During the early 1970s the general public sense of unease deepened with a series of revelations about the way the FBI had targeted Dr. King.

One FBI agent admitted that King was treated "worse than any Soviet agent" — his house, office and hotel bedrooms were bugged, his phones wiretapped, a key member of his staff was bribed by the FBI to act as an informer, false letters and reports were fabricated in order to discredit King amongst his supporters. A few days before King received the Nobel Peace Prize, the FBI sent him an anonymous letter urging him to commit suicide.

This vendetta was initiated by the FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover,

and authorised by the Kennedy brothers — at first because of suspicions that King was surrounded by Communist advisers, but then degenerating into a campaign of personal hatred from Hoover who became obsessed by the wiretap revelations of King's sexual promiscuity.

Under pressure from black leaders such as Jesse Jackson and Andrew Young, the Carter Administration authorised Congress to investigate the King assassination in 1976. It focused considerable attention on the FBI. However, its conclusion that "the FBI's covert activities helped to create a climate conducive to King's murder... they encouraged an attack upon Dr. King... their conduct was morally reprehensible, illegal, felonious and unconstitutional" fell short of implicating the FBI in the assassination itself.

Less attention was paid by the Congressional committee to the CIA as potential suspects. This was probably because the first chief counsel for the committee got his fingers burned trying to wrest documents from a reluctant CIA, but also because the blatant anti-King stance of the FBI made the latter body appear more culpable. However, it is now becoming increasingly apparent that the CIA was deeply involved.

First there are the documents. The CIA claimed it was only interested in King's foreign travels, but documents released to Professor Philip Melanson and others under the Freedom of Information Act show that it had a detailed operational interest in Dr. King — not only did its agents keep close tabs on his meetings and plans, but as one revealing release shows, they even kept copies of his credit card transactions and personal notes listing his phone calls (material

that was clearly stolen from King).

Secondly, there was the information the CIA was being given. It was being fed a line by a leading civil rights supporter, Jay Richard Kennedy, who said that King was under the influence of Peking-line Marxists in his own organisation, the SCLC. Detailed notes of Kennedy's conversations with his CIA contact were circulated within the CIA. This must have helped to create a climate of paranoia about King, which was exacerbated in 1967-68 by King's passionate opposition to the war in Vietnam and his plans for a poor people's march to disrupt Washington. President Lyndon Johnson even began publicly to criticise King — something that he and the Kennedys had been careful to do only in private.

Dr. King's son, Martin Luther King III, told us: "When he began to deal with the issue of economic parity or justice for all people, that's when he became a real threat. That's when a group of people said 'This is becoming dangerous'. It was all right to fight for civil rights, but when that broadened into an economic issue, that's when he was killed."

So the FBI and CIA both had the motivation for wanting King removed and there is strong circumstantial evidence linking the agencies to his death. Clearly that is not enough of itself to accuse them of guilt. Our hard evidence centres on the dramatic confession of a man who has for long been a shadowy figure in the King assassination, but never properly linked. His name is Jules "Rico" Kimble. To our knowledge Kimble is the first person to admit playing a part in the King conspiracy — although he says he did not realise the purpose.

Kimble alleges that he assisted James Earl Ray both before and

after the assassination, on instructions from an FBI agent and with the assistance of a man operating from a "CIA front" in Montreal, who supplied Ray with a package of identities.

Ray denied to us that he knew Kimble or that he was assisted by anyone other than a mysterious figure called Raoul, who Ray claims framed him for King's murder. We think our film makes an unanswerable case for Ray receiving assistance in Canada and that he clearly was involved in the conspiracy, though probably in a minor role and not as the assassin. This was a sophisticated plot, involving CIA and FBI agents and, as evidence from a Mafia source suggests, possibly a contract with a Mafia hit man. Ray was the decoy who ended up being the fall-guy.

In 1983 the U.S. Justice Department closed the file on the King case, even though the Congressional committee on assassinations had concluded that there was a conspiracy and asked for further investigation. At the end of our film we make a plea for reopening the case. We think we show enough evidence to justify that call.

We agree with Martin Luther King III: "I would hope that the public throughout the world would raise the issue so that it could actually be investigated properly... if there is evil, if it relates to the Justice Department, if it relates to the entire federal government, good will one day prevail."

John Edgington is the writer and producer/director, John Sergeant is the associate producer of *Inside Story: Who Killed Martin Luther King?* A BBC documentary recently screened in the U.K. The article is reprinted from *The Guardian*.

700,000 Israelis living abroad

IN THE forty years since Israel's establishment, between 650,000 and 700,000 of its citizens have left to live permanently abroad, reports the Hebrew daily Ha'aretz.

The report, citing an internal memorandum of the pressure group Citizens for the Prevention of Emigration, said that over 600,000 of the emigres live in North America. The figures include children born to the emigres.

Last year, according to recent Bank of Israel figures, Israel re-

ceived 16,000 immigrants, but they were outnumbered by 19,000 emigrants — the highest figure since 1981. The bank noted that the negative balance of migration prevailing since 1985 was a drag on the economy.

The Israeli government is deeply concerned at world Jewry's lack of interest in emigrating to Israel, and particularly at the high proportion of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union who shun Israel in favour of the United States and other Western countries. This year over 48,000 Soviet

Jews are expected to arrive in the United States, compared with 19,000 last year and 8,000 in 1987.

Last month it was disclosed that the Bush administration was planning to restrict the number of Soviet Jews entering the United States on the grounds that they could no longer be regarded as political refugees. The reality is that the Israelis have been lobbying intensely for such restrictions in the hope that Soviet emigres denied entry to the United States will go to Israel — CAABU.

Powering vehicles into the 21st century

By Douglas Sutton

FRANKFURT — There's a simple idea that two of West Germany's top car manufacturers are seriously studying at the moment, both out of self-interest, but also out of concern for the environment.

The concept: to develop vehicles that can run on a virtually limitless element — hydrogen — which when burned does not produce damaging fumes, but instead a bit of water vapor.

Possibly, according to Daimler-Benz and Bayerische Motoren-Werke (BMW), which have already carried out major research and development on hydrogen fuel technology, the concept can solve two problems at once. First, it is a hedge for that day in the 21st century when hydrocarbon fuels run out, a prospect of no minor concern for the automotive industry.

Beyond that, the increasingly dire warnings by environmental scientists about the "greenhouse effect" in the atmosphere caused by carbon dioxide exhausts adds urgency to the quest for a fuel that is less damaging to the environment.

"In the search for alternative fuels for road traffic, hydrogen provides one of the few promising alternatives," said Rolf Povel, the head of the hydrogen fuel technology efforts for Daimler-Benz. "Hydrogen offers a chance to power a car in an environmentally compatible way which is independent of petroleum."

BMW engineers in Munich hold a similar opinion. A recent report by the Bavarian carmaker says that hydrogen over the long run has the potential of being "available in virtually limitless" quantities and adds that "with the exception of traces of nitric oxides, it produces virtually no pollutants."

Of course, there is a hitch to hydrogen, both carmakers admit: though the know-how to run vehicles on nature's lightest element is already available, hydrogen is far from being cost-competitive compared to hydrocarbon fuels, and further refinements in hydrogen-propulsion technology will be required.

"It will take another three decades before we'll see a serial application of hydrogen engines," BMW's director for new technologies, Dr. Karl Nikolaus Regar, said recently in the magazine Auto-Motor-Sport. "What we are discussing today is the

technology of the year 2020."

The West Germans are not alone in the hydrogen technology quest. Hydrogen-powered vehicles are also being developed in the United States, Canada, Japan and other nations, and the industry exchanges information on such developments at a World Hydrogen Energy Conference every two years.

But after several years' research, Daimler and BMW engineers, in collaboration with other companies and research institutes in West Germany, independently have been tackling the technological and cost feasibility problems

to be overcome in hydrogen fuel application.

Both carmakers' experiments have involved using normal internal combustion engines adapted for hydrogen fuel injection and ignition, and some of the testing has also involved combined gasoline and hydrogen combustion to improve engine and fuel performance.

In addition to the two concerns of technology and economic feasibility, the carmakers say, there is the issue of safety. The spectacular explosion of the dirigible Hindenburg in 1937 immediately comes to mind, and

skeptics wonder what the German autobahn would look like in one of the hundred-car pileups that routinely happen every winter if all the cars had tanks loaded with hydrogen.

A BMW engineer, Friedrich Fickel, says that hydrogen is seen as less risky than gasoline. When leaked, hydrogen rises quickly up to the atmosphere, reducing the potential of explosion, whereas gasoline fumes linger close to the ground before dispersing.

Still, both Daimler and BMW report that a considerable part of their development efforts are aimed at safe, lead-free storage of

hydrogen fuel.

The related question is what is the best method of storage. By now, the tests by both carmakers have all but eliminated using hydrogen in gas form. As a gas it takes up about 14 times the space of liquid hydrogen and as much as 30 per cent can be lost by leakage unless the tanks are perfectly sealed.

Two other storage methods hold more promise. One is in liquid form, and the other in the form of metal hydrides. In the latter, hydrogen is mixed with a metal alloy, a process whereby the gas molecules are stored within the metal's molecular structure.

The drawbacks to both methods pose formidable technological problems. To be kept in liquid form, hydrogen must be maintained at minus 253 degrees centigrade. It means developing a car with temperature extremes — in the rear a cryogenic tank, and up front, a fuel pump able to handle the extremely cold hydrogen in the vicinity of a heat-creating engine.

BMW is being assisted in the development of a liquid hydrogen tank by the West German Aerospace Research Institute DLR in Stuttgart and by the Messer Griesheim company. The tank is described as being like a high-tech thermos bottle.

Shaped like a cylinder, the tank's walls are a combination of many layers of aluminum foil and fiberglass, and the latest tests have shown it to lose only one per cent of the hydrogen due to evaporation.

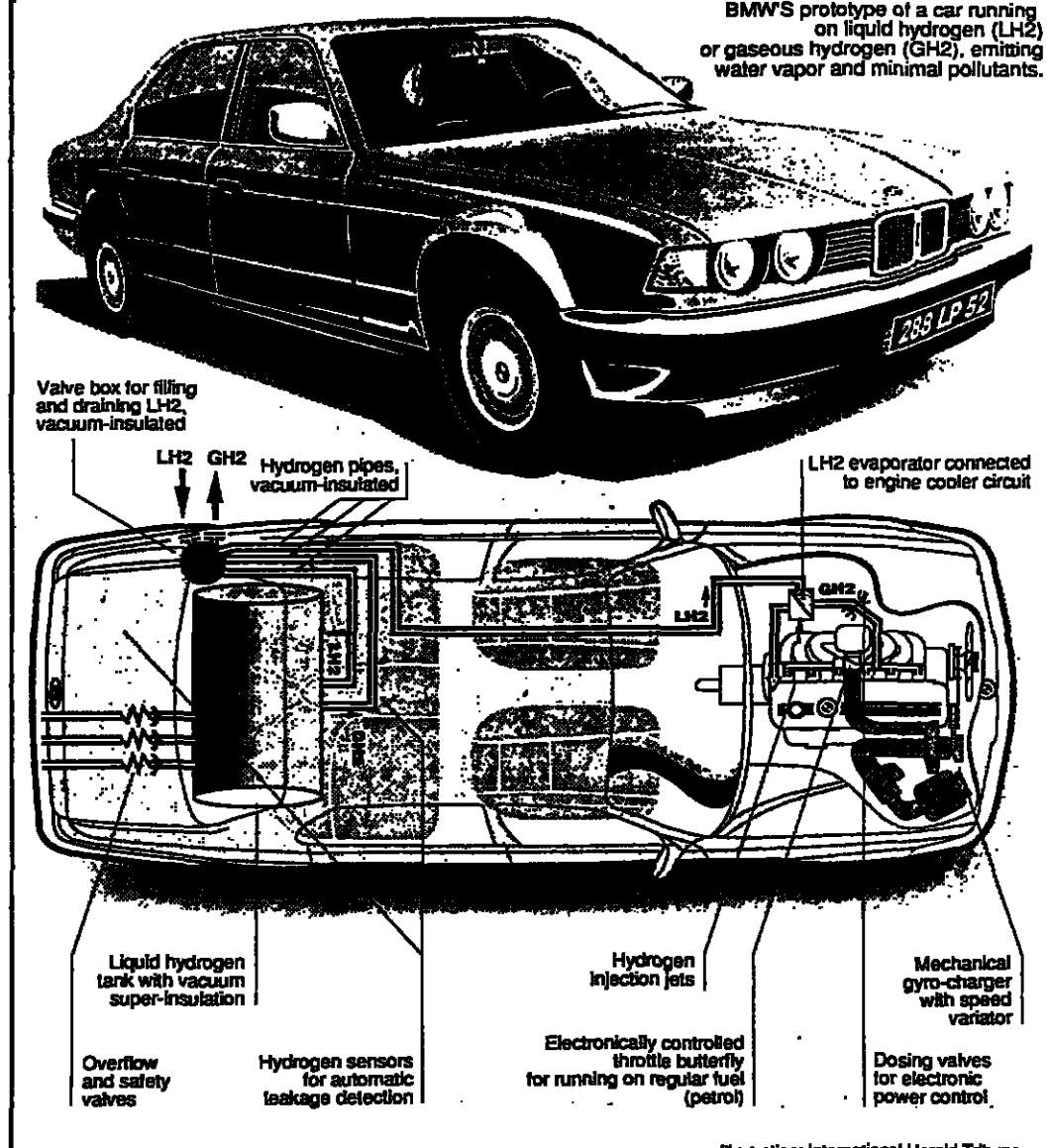
While BMW has concentrated on liquid hydrogen, Daimler's efforts have involved gaseous hydrogen and metal hydrides. Daimler conducted over 250,000 kilometres of road tests with a fleet of vehicles in West Berlin between 1984 and 1988.

At the 1988 World Hydrogen Energy Conference in Moscow, Daimler engineers said the drawback to gaseous hydrogen is that the containers required to keep the hydrogen under the necessary pressure are too large and heavy, which permits only short mileage ranges — and reduces the payload too much.

As to metal hydrides, Daimler reports having made considerable progress in developing storage tanks, calling the creation of an alloy that only chemical scientists can decipher — TiZrVFeCrMn — a "milestone." International Herald Tribune.

Hydrogen: An Alternative To Fossil Fuel

BMW's prototype of a car running on liquid hydrogen (LH2) or gaseous hydrogen (GH2), emitting water vapor and minimal pollutants.



His first taste of freedom

Bonn opens its door to a migrant flood

AS FROM next year, according to a current joke in East Germany, it will no longer be necessary for its citizens to carry identity cards. Why? Because, by then, "everyone will know one another."

Such humour is unlikely to commend itself to the GDR's ageing Communist leaders as they watch the latest exodus of thousands of their subjects. The migrants, who are mostly young and skilled, are seeking a new life in West Germany.

The continuing drain has led a group of East German intellectuals to petition the regime, warning that the State has to "offer something different to its citizens or it will die."

Next month marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the German Democratic Republic, and among those due to attend the celebrations is President Gorbachev.

There is already considerable speculation over what the Soviet leader will say — both privately and publicly — to his hosts who have pointedly refused to follow him down the path of reform. And who are now paying a visibly heavy price for this failure.

Voting with their feet

East Germans have been "voting with their feet" for more than three decades. The outflow grew after Soviet troops quelled the 1953 uprising.

By 1961, it has reached such proportions that to stem it the notorious Berlin Wall was built and lethal barriers placed along the border with the Federal Republic. But even these did not solve the problem.

The current flood is made up of those who have either tired of waiting for official permission to

leave, or others who fear that the concession could soon be withdrawn. Another factor is a newly opened avenue of escape.

This was provided by Hungary when, earlier this year, it dismantled its part of the Iron Curtain — the barbed wire fences at the frontier with Austria.

Significance not lost

The significance of this was not lost among the millions of East Germans who are allowed to spend their holiday in other East European countries. Not surprisingly, Hungary has been a popular destination this year.

According to official figures issued in Bonn, 77,000 East Germans had arrived in the Federal Republic by the end of August, only 59,000 of whom had exit visas.

At least another 15,000 more reached there in the first half of this month, and it is estimated that by the end of the year the total could be well over 100,000.

But GDR citizens are not the only ones to whom West Germany is a magnet. It also attracts ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Arrivals from there are expected to bring the overall total for 1989 to at least 450,000.

The immigrants continue to receive a warm official welcome as is demanded under constitutional law. And the latest public opinion poll indicates that more than eight out of ten West Germans sympathise with the desire of GDR citizens to come to the FRG.

The Economics Ministry has assured the public that the influx should not present particular difficulties for a flexible and dynamic economy. It recalled that West Germany had succeeded in absorbing 12 million refugees af-

ter the World War II when the economic situation was grave.

There would be temporary burdens on public expenditure, housing and the labour market, the ministry added, but these would eventually be outweighed by positive effects on the economy.

Meanwhile, the Federal Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, has reacted strongly to criticisms from the East German authorities and like-minded regimes in Eastern Europe. He stressed that it could be no part of a sensible policy for the FRG to encourage migration from the GDR in the largest possible numbers.

East Germany's problems had to be solved there, not in the Federal Republic, the Chancellor said. However, most observers feel that the latest exodus will inevitably focus renewed attention on the question of German reunification — *Lion features.*

Modern-day Jack the Ripper terrorises street people

By Farid Hossain
The Associated Press

CALCUTTA — As night falls, tens of thousands of people prepare to spend another night on the streets, fearing a modern-day Jack the Ripper known as "stone man" will strike again.

Police say stone man has killed at least seven people since June 4. His victims have been destitute people sleeping alone on deserted street corners in Calcutta. Each died by a sharp, single blow to the head. A large rock was found nearby.

"Usually we have problems of thieves, police harassment and bad weather. And now we have this stone man," Rakimnussa, a 65-year-old beggar, said as she prepared a bed of coir mat and tattered sheets on Hare street, just metres (yards) from the spot where stone man claimed a victim

early this month.

While she sleeps, her son, 35-year-old junk dealer, keeps watch.

"It is terrible. Each night I pray it should not happen to my son or to me," Rakimnussa said.

Calcutta's chief detective, Prashun Mukherjee, said police believe stone man is a psychopath.

"We are trying to catch the man and find out his motives," he said. But he admitted, "it's going to be a difficult job to catch the killer."

Another senior police officer, Rachpal Singh, said the killings seem to be carefully planned and the killer knows exactly where to deliver the fatal blow.

"Apart from the huge stone, there are no clues left behind. The stone man seems to carefully pick and choose his victims," Singh said.

The sidewalk dwellers are terrified.

Hundreds have moved their shabby beds close to police booths around the city.

At old court house street, they have set up watch squads that take turns patrolling the downtown Calcutta road where more than 2,000 people, mostly construction workers, tea shop workers and cart and rickshaw pullers, spend the night.

"We don't have any weapon. Our only weapon is to keep some people on guard," said Sukhdev Sharma, a 40-year-old man sitting on his cart surrounded by his compatriots.

"We have asked everyone in our group not to sleep in isolated places because the stone man attacks only those who sleep alone," he said.

City officials estimate the sidewalk population at 65,000 to

80,000. But local newspapers and residents said there could be as many as 1 million people living on the 130 kilometres of sidewalks in this impoverished, overcrowded city.

The fear of the stone man also has spread to the more affluent residents of Calcutta, India's largest city with 10 million people.

"I'm scared even though I don't sleep on the pavement. I don't know if I may be attacked while walking on the streets," said a young woman employed in a hotel.

Police have arrested several suspects in the past three months. During a night sweep through the city Sept. 13, they arrested 150 people but released 143 and sent five to asylums. Two are still being questioned.

One of those arrested Sept. 13 was caught while allegedly

attempting to kill a sidewalk sleeper with a stone. He reportedly told police "I wanted just to run and throw a stone. I never wanted to kill anyone."

Authorities and local newspapers have compared the mysterious killer to "Jack the Ripper," who in 1888 stabbed prostitutes to death on the streets of London.

The newspapers, quoting psychologists, also have suggested the stone man might be paranoid. Another theory advanced by medical experts is that he might be driven to kill by the city's economic problems.

"I can't tell you who the stone man is and why he is doing it, but it has brought the problems of poor pavement people into focus again," said Dr. Bhaskar Roy Chowdhury, a former neurophysician and now vice chancellor of Calcutta University.

Sri Lanka: 500,000 fuel-efficient stoves by 1995

AS PART of a Ministry of Power and Energy project for the national conservation of firewood, the Ceylon Electricity Board hopes to distribute 500,000 fuel-efficient stoves to households in Sri Lanka by 1995. Up to last year, 174,881 stoves had been distributed, Malika Wanigasundara reports from Colombo.

Fuelwood continues to supply 71.8 per cent of total energy needs, while 94.1 per cent of

households use firewood for domestic cooking.

Several models of stoves are being tried out, some designed for urban, and others for rural areas.

Stoves are sold at a subsidised rate, and local potters are trained by the Electricity Board to fabricate the stoves, which studies show save anything up to 20-40 per cent of fuelwood — *PANOS.*

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Plenty of ideas, but not much money for Third World debtors

WASHINGTON (R) — Everybody seems to have ideas about how to help the Third World overcome its \$1.3 trillion foreign debt crisis, but few seem willing to put their money where their mouths are.

More than 20 plans have been put forward in recent years to try to cope with the seven-year crisis — from calls for a simple, across-the-board forgiveness of past debts to U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's complicated debt-reduction plan, which forms the basis of the current strategy.

But experts said that until the major players — creditor governments, banks and debtor nations — decide who will pick up the tab, the world financial community will continue to stagger from one debt problem to the other.

Heralded as a major breakthrough when it was unveiled in March, the Brady plan has come under attack from creditors and debtors alike at the recent annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

"I think we should lay the Brady plan aside and start something else," said Walter Seipp, chief executive of the West German Commerzbank.

"The present strategy in itself may not be sufficient," said the group of 24, which represents

developing nations.

President Georges Bush is personally urged bankers gathered in Washington to back the strategy, which essentially means being prepared to make new loans to the Third World.

But U.S. banking sources said there are signs that the uneasy alliance on Third World debt between the banks and the U.S. Treasury and International Monetary Fund is crumbling.

Some bankers see a dim outlook for debtors such as Argentina and Colombia who hope to secure new bank loans in coming months. Mexico led the way by forging the first pact with creditor banks under the Brady plan.

"The Mexico deal will get done. But after that, things look bleak for the countries," said one U.S. banker.

Brady has been forced to warn both banks and debtors against unrealistic expectations and to remind them that solving the crisis will take time and hard work.

"An important challenge at the moment appears to be the problem of unrealistic expectations," Brady said. "Excessive expectations can only promote delays ... and ultimately raise the economic costs to the banks and debtor nations."

Under Brady's plan, Third World nations would be rewarded for tough economic action with cuts in their debt and interest rate burdens through swaps for bonds backed by collateral from the IMF, World Bank and Japan.

The problem with the plan, which the U.S. Treasury originally hoped could apply to as many as 39 countries, is that there isn't enough money around to make it work.

"The fundamental problem is not the intent to get the debt burden down, but to launch the plan without any indication where the collateral funds are coming from," Midland Bank Chairman Kit McMahon said.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus has called for a doubling in the IMF's resources to nearly a quarter of trillion dollars to help cope with the debt crisis, but the United States and Britain question if that much is needed.

Japan has promised \$10 billion to back up the Brady plan, while the World Bank will chip in \$10 billion. But with debtor nations from Costa Rica to Morocco anxious to qualify for the scheme, bankers fear that will not be enough and that they will be asked to make up the difference.

Judging by some of the comments at this week's annual meetings, they're not far wrong.

"The banks should not think that reticence on their part will lead to a larger contribution from the multilateral organisations," the IMF's Camdessus said.

The banks complain they are being asked to throw good money after bad and many draw the line against doing any more.

A score of banks have already indicated that they do not intend to lend any more money to Mexico under the complicated debt reduction pact it recently worked out with its creditors.

The Mexican scheme was supposed to be a showcase for the Brady plan, but instead it has run into problems and the U.S. Treasury has had to twist bankers' arms to join in.

"Mexico is not a good model," Midland's McMahon said.

That assessment contrasts markedly with that of Brady, who praised the agreement between Mexico and the banks in his speech to the International Monetary Fund.

But even the treasury secretary had to admit that his plan was not the panacea many had hoped. "No solution will be perfect for all parties," he said.

Americans face deteriorating Chinese economy

PEKING (AP) — Political uncertainty and a deteriorating economy will continue to deter Americans from investing in China, the president of the U.S.-China Business Council has predicted.

Roger W. Sullivan said there is real concern about the mixed rhetoric coming out of Peking since the June military crackdown of the Tiananmen democracy protests.

On the one hand, he said, Chinese leaders repeatedly say economic reforms will continue. Yet at the same time they are purging reform-minded officials on corruption charges and saying the foreigners are out to subvert the country.

"We have a lot of questions and a lot of concerns, but no real answers," Sullivan said in an interview.

He said that in his meetings in Peking the Chinese "for their own reasons, have decided to blame the United States" and U.S. sanctions for their current economic woes.

This is in spite of what he described as the "masterful way" U.S. President George Bush handled the issue of sanctions against China without causing any real damage to economic relations.

The United States, joining other Western nations and Japan, showed opposition to the bloody suppression of the democracy movement by curtailing high-level official contacts, suspending arms sales and urging international lending institutions not to offer new assistance to China for the time being.

China retains most-favoured-nation status as a U.S. trading partner, the president of the private Washington-based council said.

American businesses already in China, he said, "have been surprisingly open in the sense of 'hunkering down' and waiting out the current political storm rather than pulling out."

Some U.S. businesses in China have cut their expatriate staff or reduced the level of their operations since June, but the great majority have maintained their presence in the country.

There have been no major new commitments to China since June, a result of businesses "holding back because they don't think they can make any money. They're not trying to punish China."

On the political side, he said, "we know there is a fundamental struggle going on over policy," with the conservatives now in power pushing for more central planning and a re-assertion of state controls over the activities of Chinese businesses.

Before June, he said, most people thought they knew where China would be heading over the next five years. Now, "there is a complete blank in long-range planning."

Economically, China now faces huge problems from lack of foreign exchange and a growing budget deficit that will force it to continue its tight credit policy in the foreseeable future and make it harder for foreigners to do business here, Sullivan said.

CAEU chief urges Arab economic integration to achieve food security

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Hassan Ibrahim, secretary general of the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) will leave for Libya and Morocco Sunday to take part in a number of pan-Arab economic gatherings in the coming month.

A CAEU statement said that Ibrahim will first lead a delegation to the Federation of Arab Economists meetings in Casablanca where he will present a study on the role of commerce to achieve economic integration

within the Arab World. In his study Ibrahim will outline the role of trade and dwell on a number of case studies in Arab states.

Mr. Ibrahim will later go to Libya to take part in a seminar by Arab parliamentarians on economic integration among Arab countries, and the relationship between food security and economy as a whole.

On the eve of his departure Ibrahim said that food security is

one of the major issues of concern to the Arab World, and called on Arab governments to double their efforts to deal with this issue.

The solution for the problem, Ibrahim suggested, lies with Arab economic integration.

Ibrahim is also due to attend a pan-Arab conference on animal feed processing industry in the Arab World and an exhibition of foodstuffs to be organized in Libya.

Private aid groups say major governments hurt Third World

WASHINGTON (AP) — Representatives of private aid groups from 65 countries have charged that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are eroding self-reliance, self-determination and national sovereignty in the Third World.

Jim Middaugh of the Development Group for Alternative Policies, a private advocacy organization in Washington, has said that 200 people took part in the group's week-long meeting held at the same time as the annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF.

World Bank and IMF are owned by 152 governments, with the United States holding the largest voting power.

The private group's statement cited the World Bank's estimate that debtor countries are transfer-

ring \$50 billion to creditor countries this year, largely in interest and principal repayments on debt. Largely because of payments on debt.

"With the World Bank, along with the IMF, cast in the role of debt manager, the debt crisis now defines 'development' as economic growth geared not to the needs of people or to safeguarding of the environment, but to debt repayment," the statement said.

It added that the only way to avert a global crisis is to shift priorities away from getting Third World countries to make quick profits so they can keep up with their debts.

"Citizens' organizations participating in the forum, demonstrated that these policies have

brought the further erosion of national self-reliance, self-determination and sovereignty," it added.

It complained that the World Bank is not giving enough information to private organizations on how the bank's projects affect the environment.

"As the Bank and IMF are public institutions, the non-governmental organizations community also called for... lifting the veil of secrecy that surrounds Bank and IMF operations," it said.

Bill Brannigan, a spokesman for the Bank, said it was up to countries where the bank has projects to divulge the Bank's views on their environmental effects — that the Bank itself has to keep them confidential.

EC's single market no threat to poor nations — Mitterrand

VERSAILLES, France (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand has assured developing countries that they would not suffer as the European Community dismantles financial and commercial barriers in 1992 to create a single market.

Mitterrand also repeated his call, so far resisted by other leading industrial nations, for a summit of rich and poor countries to discuss debt and the environment.

"Cooperation with your countries must not be affected," Mitterrand told a joint assembly of European Community and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) legislators, where poor countries' concern about 1992

emerged as the critical issue.

"A greater Europe can provide a greater measure of solidarity," said Mitterrand, who has championed Third World rights among leaders of industrial states.

Earlier the assembly of EC and ACP parliamentarians from 78 countries called on the community to guarantee access to Third World exports after 1992 and to provide more money to revive their slumping economies.

Many lesser developed countries share U.S. worries that a unified EC will prove harder for traders to penetrate and draw investment away from poorer states.

Mitterrand restated his wish to

convene a summit of rich and poor countries. The French president took up the appeal of four Third World nations — Egypt, India, Senegal and Venezuela — for a North-South summit at a meeting of the seven largest industrial countries in Paris in July.

The United States and Britain threw cold water on the proposals.

Mitterrand, however said unbridled economic development could destroy the environment, and that Third World countries needed help in their struggle against large debts and slow growth.

"The heads of state" Mitterrand told the parliamentarians, "never get together to talk about these matters."

U.S. economic index rose 0.3% in August

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government has reported that its main barometer of future economic trends, the index of leading economic indicators, rose by 0.3 per cent in August — a further sign of slow but steady growth.

The second consecutive rise in the index slightly exceeded Wall Street expectations of a 0.2 per cent increase after July's revised 0.1 per cent gain. The July increase was previously reported at 0.2 per cent.

The Commerce Department figures signalled that slow but steady growth would likely occur in the next six to nine months. Five of the 11 indicators that make up the index increased dur-

ing the month, led by manufacturers' new orders for consumer goods and materials.

Higher stock prices, a bigger money supply, a rise in building permits and a fall in state unemployment insurance claims also pushed the index higher.

But consumer expectations fell in August, as did sensitive materials prices, manufacturers unfilled orders, plant and equipment orders, deliveries and the average workweek.

So far this year, the index has fallen at an annualised rate of 0.6 per cent, compared to an annualised rise of 3.8 per cent in the comparable year-ago period, and a 4.5 per cent increase for the

entire 1988 year. The index appeared consistent with other recent economic data showing a slow rate of growth in the overall economy with notable weakness in the manufacturing sector.

Earlier this week, for instance, the department reported a strong 3.2 per cent gain in durable goods orders in August, but unfilled orders showed a slight decline pointing to industrial weakness ahead.

Economists are already looking ahead to next Friday's influential employment report for September to get a better feel about whether the current expansion is sustainable.

Ecuador to resume oil exports

QUITO (R) — Ecuador plans to resume oil exports Monday after a strike by Texaco Inc workers disrupted production and army troops occupied the country's oil installations, a spokesman for the state oil company has said.

Petroleos de Ecuador (Petroecuador) spokesman Fabian Garces told Reuters that pumping would resume Friday night and exports would resume by Monday.

The move to bring in the troops followed the declaration of a nationwide state of emergency by President Rodrigo Borja Wednesday night after the work-

ers went on strike hours earlier. Oil accounts for about half of the export earnings of Ecuador, a nation of 10 million people and member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Garces said troops had occupied all the installations by Thursday night as 80 Petroecuador employees moved in to operate the strike-bound oil fields and the nation's main oil pipeline.

He added that emergency personnel had brought production to 160,000 barrels per day (BPD) Friday. Ecuador normally produces about 300,000 BPD including 157,000 in exports.

Sony Corp. buys U.S. entertainment companies

NEW YORK (AP) — Sony Corp. has agreed to buy the moviemaker Guber-Peters Entertainment Co. Inc. and indicated its owners would be offered roles at another prospective Sony operation, Columbia Pictures Entertainment Inc.

Sony said it had agreed to pay \$17.50 a share, or \$200 million, for Guber-Peters, the Hollywood company headed by producers Peter Guber and Jon Peters that counts the movie hits "Batman" and "Rain Man" among its credits.

Including Guber-Peters' debt that Sony will inherit, the total deal is valued at \$240 million.

The move comes a day after Sony, the Japanese electronics giant, took its biggest step into the "software" side of the entertainment business by agreeing to pay \$3.4 billion for New York-based Columbia Pictures.

The purchase of Guber-Peters dramatizes Sony's eagerness to shore up Columbia's floundering film production.

Guber-Peters has a tangle net worth of just \$2 a share, according to Michael Tennenbaum, vice chairman of Investment Banking for Bear, Stearns and Co., which appraised the Sony offer for the Guber-Peters board.

But the company has much greater intrinsic value, Tennenbaum said, because of its television assets, future profit payoffs

from "Batman" and, most important, because of its "management and track record."

Guber and Peters are considered to be two of Hollywood's hottest producers. In announcing that its board agreed to the deal with Sony, Columbia said its president and chief executive, Victor A. Kaufman, and its chief operating officer, Lewis J. Korman, had indicated they intended to "move on to other endeavors" before any deal was completed.

There have been published reports that Guber would be asked to replace Kaufman at Columbia once the acquisition is completed. Kaufman and Guber failed to respond to repeated requests for comment.

Michael Schulhof, vice chairman of Sony Corp. of America, also declined to comment directly on those reports Thursday.

But he said in a telephone interview, "we are hopeful that the management of Guber-Peters will work out some of their existing contractual arrangements in a way that will make it possible for them to join Columbia Pictures."

Guber and Peters recently renewed a five-year production contract with Columbia rival Warner Bros., and are working on a "Batman" sequel due in 1991 and film adaptations of the books "Bonfire of the Vanities," and "A Bright Shining Lie" for Warner.

U.S. forces NWA to cut KLM stake in buyout

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government has forced North West Airlines (NWA) Inc. parent company of Northwest Airlines, to reduce its financial ties to KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, serving notice on non-U.S. airlines that their investments in U.S. carriers would be carefully scrutinized.

NWA is being taken private by a group led by Los Angeles investor Alfred Checchi in a \$3.65 billion buyout in which KLM was to put up \$100 million — 57 per cent of all equity. Because U.S. laws limit foreign ownership to 25 per cent, KLM was to receive mostly non-voting preferred stock.

But Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner, announcing a consent order signed by Checchi, said KLM could be in a position to exert actual control over Northwest.

Under the order, KLM was given six months to limit its total investment to 25 per cent, or \$175 million of the \$705 million total equity. A KLM-appointed board member would remain on the NWA board, but his role would be limited.

In Amsterdam, KLM said it had not signed an agreement to cut its stake in NWA and was seeking talks with the Bush administration.

A brief statement said KLM disagreed with the U.S. Transportation Department on be deal and "KLM has therefore not

signed the agreement."

Skinner said that a foreign airline holding substantial equity interest in a U.S. airline could veto the expansion of international routes.

Checchi, 41, who appeared with Skinner at a news conference, said he disagreed that KLM would have been a position to control Northwest.

"At the same time, we do not believe it is in anyone's best interests to enter into protracted litigation with the prolonged uncertainty and management diversion that would result," he said.

Checchi said that Northwest's long-term partnership with KLM would continue. "We could not have a better partner," he said. He also noted that the Transportation Department had found NWA's new owners "exceptionally well-qualified to expand Northwest's operations and improve its quality of services."

In a similar case, the planned buyout of UAL Corp., parent of United Airlines, involves British Airways.

British Airways is supplying \$750 million, 77 per cent of the equity for that buyout, but like KLM would have most of its stake in preferred stock.

Skinner said that each merger would be considered on its own merits, although he wanted to determine whether a foreign airline "will have a substantial ability to influence the carrier's activities."

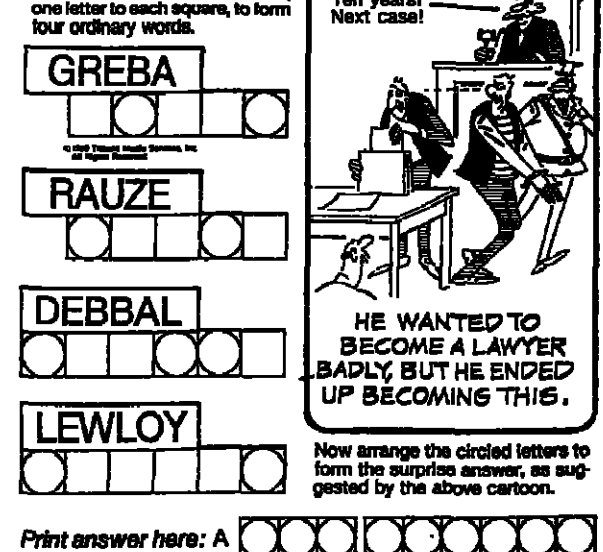
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here: A (Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: PUPPY FEVER BEAGLE ENSIGN
Answer: The only time that crook's on the level is when he's this—SLEEPING

ANZ announces change of name for Grindlays

AMMAN (J.T.) — ANZ has announced that it is changing the name of its wholly-owned subsidiary, Grindlays Bank PLC, to ANZ Grindlays Bank PLC. The change of name will apply to most Grindlays operations throughout the world and is effective from Oct. 1, 1989, subject to approval from local central authorities.

ANZ's Deputy Chairman and Group Chief Executive Will Bailey said that the change of name will clear the way for coor-

minated global marketing initiatives. "We have introduced the ANZ name while retaining the value and reputation that the Grindlays name has established," he said. "The new name of ANZ Grindlays Bank PLC will make customers and potential customers aware of the group's extensive international banking network and the benefits to be gained from dealing with a financial services group that has operations in 48 countries."

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

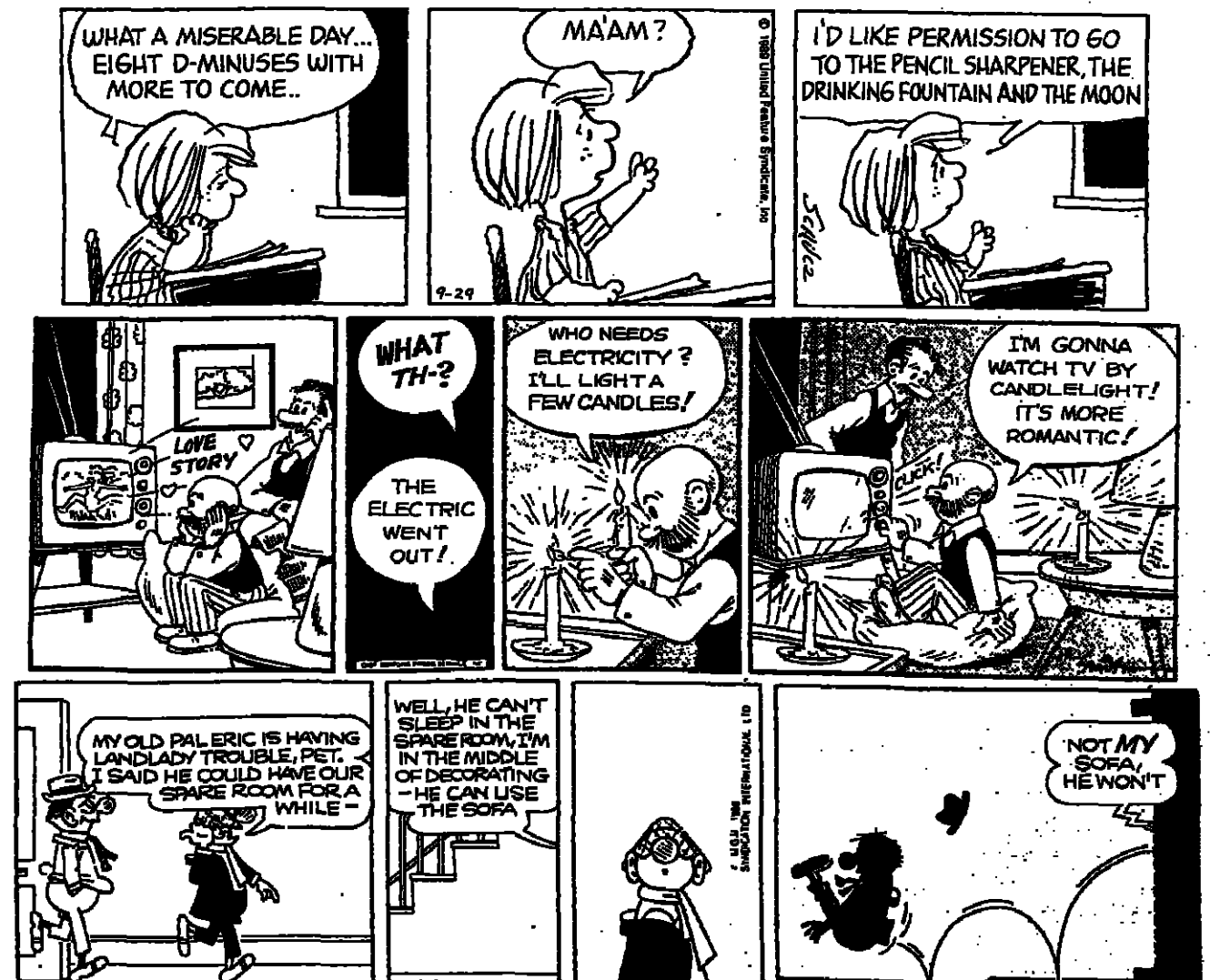
Saturday, September 30, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	96.4	97.4
U.S. dollar	612.1	618.1	Japanese yen (for 100)	439.9	444.3
Pound Sterling	991.9	1001.3	Dutch guilder	289.4	292.3
Deutschmark	327.0	330.3	Swedish crown	94.8	95.7
Swiss franc	377.4	381.2	Italian lira (for 100)	44.8	45.2
			Belgian franc (for 10)	154.6	156.1

Peanuts

Mutt'n Jeff

Andy Capp





A Vietnamese tricycle driver repairs his vehicle in front of a board in Ho Chi Minh City welcoming the return of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.

Cambodian rebels claim major push near border

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (AP) — Cambodian guerrillas have launched a major offensive against the pro-Hanoi government and claimed to have battled their way into a key border town Saturday morning, guerrilla and Western diplomatic sources said.

Officers of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) said 7,000 of their fighters launched coordinated attacks against five towns along highway 69 which parallels the Thai-Cambodian border in western Cambodia.

"This is not guerrilla warfare. It is conventional warfare," said one Western diplomatic source, describing the fighting as the largest single coordinated effort by the Cambodian resistance in terms of troops and objectives in the decade-long war.

The source, who requested anonymity, said the KPNLF may have timed the push with drives by its guerrilla partners, the Communist Khmer Rouge and a

group loyal to resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in other areas along the Thai-Cambodian border.

The three groups are battling the Phnom Penh government, which has been backed by Vietnamese forces since 1979. Hanoi says the last of its troops withdrew from Cambodia last Tuesday.

KPNLF officers said their troops had entered the key town of Sisophon after an infantry assault had been driving towards Banteay Chmar, Srey Chiek, Thmar Pouk and Kandaloum.

The towns, defended by roughly 4,500 Cambodian soldiers, are located 20 to 40 kilometres across the Thai border inside Cambodia.

The officers claimed that several Soviet-made T-54 tanks were disabled by KPNLF fighters, armed mainly with light infantry weapons and anti-tank rockets.

"They can take it (the objectives) but they can't hold it," the Western diplomat predicted.

The diplomat described the morale of the KPNLF fighters as "very high" because of the pull-out of Vietnamese troops and recent supplies of weapons and funds.

A Western relief official based in Aranyaprathet said he had received reports that the three guerrilla factions had been planning a coordinated offensive for some time.

"It is definitely true that they have begun this offensive but it is maybe too early to really believe their reports," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The non-communist KPNLF claims to have more than 16,000 fighters. The strongest guerrilla group, the Khmer Rouge, fields between 30,000 and 40,000 fighters, according to Western intelligence estimates.

Vietnam, which invaded Cambodia and ousted the Khmer Rouge in late 1978, said it completed the withdrawal of all its troops from the country Tuesday.

But the guerrillas say that thousands of Vietnamese have stayed behind.

On Thursday, China, the main backer of the Khmer Rouge, contended that 30,000 Vietnamese troops were still in Cambodia disguised as government soldiers.

But in a statement to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, relayed by Phnom Penh's official SPK news agency Friday, Cambodian Premier Hun Sen insisted the Vietnamese withdrawal was complete.

It said "not a single Vietnamese soldier or military adviser remains in Cambodia."

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, in an interview reported by the Vietnam News Agency Friday, accused China and the United States of using the claim that Vietnamese troops had stayed behind in Cambodia as a pretext to continue military aid to the guerrillas.

Zsa Zsa Gabor found guilty of cop-slapping

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor was convicted Friday on misdemeanor charges for slapping a police officer, driving without a valid driver's license and with an open bottle of alcohol in her Rolls-Royce.

But she was acquitted of disobeying officer Paul Kramer when she drove away from him June 14 during a traffic stop confrontation. She said she interpreted an obscene phrase he allegedly used as an order to leave.

"It is unbelievable," Miss Gabor told her husband, Frederick Von Anhalt as the verdicts were read.

The Hungarian-born actress, fiery and unpredictable during the 15-day trial, made no other remarks as she sat with her attorney William Grayson.

Sentencing was set for Oct. 17. Miss Gabor faces a maximum penalty of 18 months in jail and a \$3,500 fine.

During the trial, Miss Gabor was fined \$500 by Municipal Court Judge Charles Rubin for violating what she called a "gagging order" by commenting to reporters on witnesses in the case. Another gag order violation allegation was dismissed by Rubin.

The 12-member jury deliberated 90 minutes on Wednesday, all day Thursday and returned their verdicts Friday afternoon.

Kramer, a motorcycle officer, pulled Miss Gabor's Rolls-Royce over after noticing expired registration tags on the auto. As he checked for other violations, she drove off.

Miss Gabor slapped Kramer when he pulled her over a second time. He said the attack was unprovoked but she said she reacted in self-defense when he forcibly removed her from her car.

The veteran celebrity's trial was distinguished by colourful epithets and theatrics.

Chattering from topics like jailhouse lesbians to comparisons of U.S. justice and Nazi Germany, Miss Gabor attracted as much media attention during her case as she did in any previous TV or film performance.

"I am the daughter of a freedom fighter," the star of such films as "Queen of Outer Space" and "Boys Night Out" told reporters during her trial. "I am a horsewoman... I am a princess. I am Zsa Zsa."

Upset by testimony that depicted her in a different light — as

Record drug haul seized in U.S.

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — U.S. authorities said they made the biggest seizure of cocaine on record at a warehouse Friday, finding at least 20 tonnes of the drug valued "conservatively" at \$2 billion.

About \$10 million in cash also was seized, said Ralph Lochridge, a spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

He said at least 20 tonnes was found, and authorities thought they might locate even more.

"This seizure should put to rest any further speculation that Los Angeles is in fact the major pathway for cocaine entering the country and has in fact become a major distribution centre in the United States," Lochridge said.

Lochridge said it was the biggest cocaine seizure in history, easily topping the previous domestic record of 3,270 kilograms in Tampa, Florida, last year and a 12-tonne seizure in Colombia.

The cocaine was seized at a warehouse in a light industrial area of Sylmar, a section of Los Angeles in the north San Fernando Valley, about 40 kilometres from downtown.

Three men, whose names were not immediately released, were arrested for investigation of conspiring to distribute cocaine, Lochridge said.

"They claimed to be Mexican, but their accents were south American," he said.

He said the DEA had been investigating and conducting "intense surveillance" for a year before moving in about midnight.

"It's about \$2 billion in cocaine, and that's a very conservative estimate," Lochridge said. "Twenty tonnes — nothing like that has ever been done before."

Other drug-enforcement officials placed the value of the haul at between \$2 billion and \$6 billion.

About three weeks ago, police arrested eight Colombian nationals in Los Angeles and seized about half a tonne of cocaine. Those arrested included a 71-year-old woman.

Friday's seizure came after a year-long investigation by federal agents and local police, authorities said.

Hong Kong talks stalemated

LONDON (R) — Britain and China have ended three days of tough talking on Hong Kong still deeply divided over preparations for the handover of the colony in 1997.

The London meeting was the first since Britain banned high-level contacts after Chinese troops crushed pro-democracy demonstrations in Peking's Tiananmen Square in June.

The Chinese delegation said it disagreed seriously with Britain over how to restore confidence in Hong Kong and insisted it would station troops there after the colony reverts to its control.

Ji Chaozhu, ambassador to the British-Chinese Joint Liaison Group, rejected British calls for Chinese troops to be limited or excluded from Hong Kong after 1997, saying they were a "symbol of sovereignty" for Peking.

"I have to admit there are major differences between us on

matters of important principle," he said after the talks ended Friday.

Robin McLaren, who headed the British delegation, said both sides said things the other side did not want to hear.

"There was some pretty straight talking as each side set out its views on the situation," he said.

Britain and China agreed there was a confidence problem to the colony, which is to be handed back to China under the terms of a 1984 agreement between London and Peking, he said.

The Chinese side said concern in Hong Kong was a result of the way the Western media portrayed the events of June 3 and 4 in an around Tiananmen Square.

Diplomats in Peking believe hundreds, possibly thousands of people were killed there by the People's Liberation Army.

But Ji said: "Because of the one-sided and distorted reports, and because of rumours, there are some alarms in the community in Hong Kong."

The Chinese delegation accused Hong Kong of launching subversion and sabotage against Peking, but British officials rejected the allegations.

Ji said China would stand by its obligations after the handover of the colony, provisions for retaining its Western-style economic and social system would be respected.

He said China planned to go ahead in June and promulgate a new basic law or constitution for Hong Kong, valid from the handover despite delays in talks with Britain.

British sources said they were disappointed the deadline could not be delayed to allow more consultation.

Barco declares 'world war on narco-terrorists'

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas has proclaimed "a new world war" against drug traffickers and urged U.N. General Assembly members to seize drug profits and suppress drug use.

The Colombian president, in a dramatic speech Friday to the 159-nation General Assembly, urged all nations to sign the Vienna Convention on Narcotics Trafficking. The pact provides penalties for users, permits search and seizure of ships and confiscation of properties.

"A new world war is being waged by an aggressor unrestrained by the traditional rules of engagement or by the responsibilities of national sovereignty," Barco told the world body.

"There must be no safe haven for the narco-terrorists," he said to loud applause.

Extraordinary security precautions were taken before Barco's appearance, including posting of sharpshooters atop buildings and deployment of bomb-sniffing dogs and a legion of U.N. police, aided by bomb squad vans.

Colombia's drug war intensified Aug. 18 when leading presidential candidate Luis Carlos

Galan, a harsh opponent of the drug trade, was assassinated, allegedly on the orders of drug lords. Barco a day later launched a new crackdown on the traffickers, who responded by declaring war on the government.

Colombian dignitaries and their cartels have assassinated government officials, jurists, legislators, mayors, soldiers, policemen, journalists and others who have challenged their trade, Barco said.

"We, a community of nations, find ourselves under assault from an international criminal enterprise that respects none of our norms of sovereignty, frontiers or laws," Barco said.

He called for international efforts to control the trade in chemicals, which are used to process cocaine and other drugs, and to stop arms sales to drug traffickers who have hired foreign mercenaries to fight the government.

Bombs rock Colombia

Shortly after Barco spoke, four bombs exploded in Bogota, three of them at schools, in what authorities described as a marked increase in drug-related violence in the Colombian capitals.

Three bombs, each consisting

of about three kilograms of dynamite, damaged the schools and slightly injured two teenage girls and a woman.

A fourth and bigger bomb hit a savings bank in the Primavera industrial district causing heavy damage to about 50 buildings.

A bomb also exploded Friday night in the southern city of Cali, one of two headquarters of the major cocaine cartels, damaging a bank.

More than 90 bombs have exploded across the country in the past five weeks in what authorities are calling a sustained campaign of terror and intimidation by drug traffickers of the Medellin cocaine cartel. The Cali cartel has not claimed responsibility for any of the bombings.

Extradition cleared

Meanwhile, a judge has cleared the way for the extradition of another Colombian to the United States to face drug charges.

The Bogota newspaper El Tiempo reported that the judge in Cartagena, 300 kilometres north of the capital, rejected an appeal for the release of Ana Maria Rodriguez, who was arrested three weeks ago.

Space monkeys return on flying zoo

MOSCOW (R) — Two Soviet space monkeys returned to earth Friday along with their fellow crew members — rats, fish and insects — after two weeks aboard an orbiting zoo devoted to space research. Zhakonya and Zabiya landed in Soviet Kazakhstan aboard the Kosmos-2044 spacecraft. TASS news agency reported. It said the monkeys' first check-up indicated they had withstood the strains of the flight well. The flying zoo blasted off Sept. 15 for studies of the impact of weightlessness, artificial gravity and ionizing radiation on the various organisms on board, the report said. About 20 countries contributed to the research programme, including the United States, France, Canada and the European Space Agency. It was the first time Moscow has sent monkeys into space. In 1987, one of two monkeys aboard a satellite broke loose from restraints and played havoc with equipment before the spaceship returned to Earth thousands of miles off course.

Global weather (major world cities)

	TEMP.	WIND.	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	10 50 15 55	Cloudy	
ATHENS	18 64 27 81	Cloudy	
BAHRAIN	27 81 36 87	Clear	
BANGKOK	25 77 34 85	Cloudy	
Buenos Aires	19 65 18 65	Clear	
CAIRO	19 65 31 81	Clear	
CHICAGO	06 42 23 74	Clear	
COPIENHAGEN	07 45 15 58	Clear	
FRANKFURT	09 48 17 63	Cloudy	
GENEVA	10 50 16 61	Cloudy	
HONG KONG	26 79 31 86	Cloudy	
ISTANBUL	15 59 24 75	Cloudy	
LONDON	11 52 17 63	Clear	
ROME	13 55 21 70	Cloudy	
MADRID	14 57 30 86	Clear	
MEXICO	28 82 42 108	Cloudy	
MONTREAL	04 38 17 63	Cloudy	
MOSCOW	04 38 17 63	Clear	
NEW DELHI	23 73 34 84	Clear	
NEW YORK	07 34 34 84	Clear	
PARIS	10 50 18 64	Cloudy	
SAO PAULO	11 52 21 70	Cloudy	
SYDNEY	11 52 21 70	Cloudy	
TOKYO	22 72 25 77	Cloudy	
VIENNA	13 57 18 65	Cloudy	

Row over Marcos heats up

MANILA (Agencies) — Supporters of Ferdinand Marcos announced plans Saturday for nationwide protest marches to pressure President Corason Aquino to reverse her ban on a Philippine burial for the late dictator.

Vice-President Salvador Laurel, calling the ban illegal, also announced that a petition to the Philippine supreme court asking it to quash the decision would be filed Monday.

Geronimo Cauda, operations coordinator for Marcos's former New Society Party, said supporters planned a "march for justice" in several major Philippine cities next weekend.

"We are marching for justice for the Marcoses so that his family will be allowed to bring his remains to the Philippines," Cauda told reporters.

He said one march would start in Marcos's birthplace of Sarat town in the northern province of Ilocos Norte and

head south 500 kilometres to Manila.

A similar march from Laurel's home province of Batangas would also end in the capital, with other marches being held at the same time in key cities.

In Honolulu, Imelda Marcos has said she might keep the remains of Marcos at their Hawaiian estate until the former Philippine ruler can be buried in his homeland.

"My plan has always been to bring him back," Mrs. Marcos said after her husband's death. "I have committed myself to what is Ferdinand's right to rest in peace in his homeland."

Hawaii's attorney general said Friday it might take a court ruling to say how long Marcos's body can remain at his Honolulu home.

Marcos, 72, died Thursday at St. Francis Medical Centre after nearly nine months in the hospital. Doctors said kidney and lung failure and a wide-

spread infection contributed to the cardiac arrest listed as the cause of death.

There were no immediate plans for burial, she said, and an aide suggested that, barring their return to the Philippines, Marcos's remains might be above ground for a long time.

Hawaii law requires that a body be embalmed, buried or cremated within 90 hours of death, unless it is in the hands of a coroner, medical examiner or county physician.

Morticians said Marcos's embalmed body, which has been displayed in a bronze casket in the living room of his Makiki Heights home since Thursday, could be preserved indefinitely.

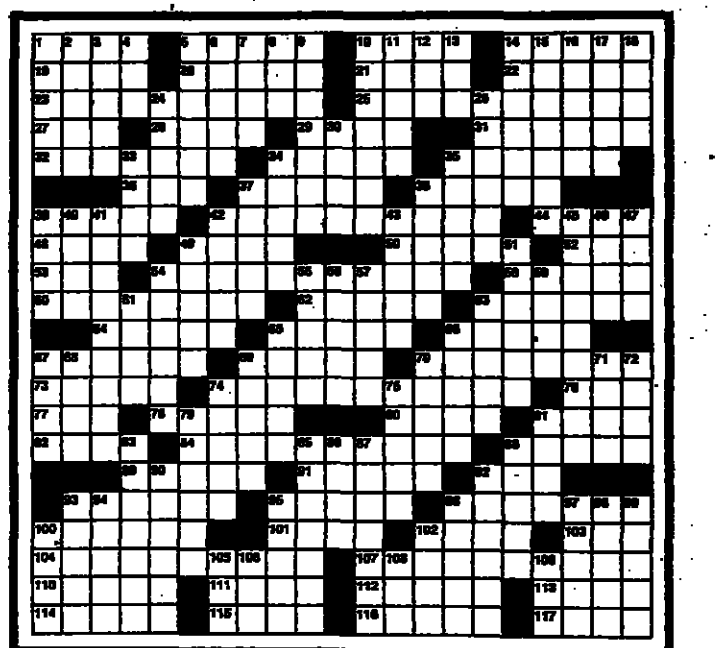
One of the marches planned in the Philippines will be headed by Ilocos Norte Vice Governor Remondo Aquino, a former Marcos intelligence chief who was linked to at least one of the five coup attempts against Aquino.

THE Sunday Crossword

WINGED WORDS
By Barbara Gordon

- ACROSS
1. The
 2. City on the
 3. Prince of
 4. Migrating
 5. US author
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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. One man's trash solution may possibly be another person's.
2. To begin with, how did that dare clever cat ever get into the bag?
3. Puzzle: where have the peanuts gone? For clue: where five-cent cigars went!
4. Deja vu is just form of our nostalgia, illuminating loved events.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. ELIBBP MCJJP ACP HWK OWEJP AIAD HW

BIKD IJK MIDDLD IOWCJHEP MITE

—By Earl Ireland

2. QCKQ DYBCGG SNE FRDXR QRCAMY

IAZH ZYFRMOR BIXZUIS: 'YZAZH XMYE

URZH Z IH UBZY — UBI SYIUQ UBI IH

UBIX"

—By Margaret McKenney Elmer

3. XWALK XONA NUO XTENCH EPNWMP EN

UCCUESL NOXTENCH ELKEL NX ELSCGH

BLUMPCNCK

—By Ed Hollister

4. YUM CMPY WMQN HE WD XSEED YSVYVI

KQXM HP PYIKYND XVI YUM CHIRI

—By Barbara J. Page

